

ALESIA

Caesar's *Gallic War* VII 63-90



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A L E S I A

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with Running Vocabulary and Commentary

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ALESIA: A Latin Text of Caesar's *Gallic War* VII 63–90

with Running Vocabulary and Commentary

First Edition

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CONTENTS

About this Edition	i
Introduction	vii
Timeline of events for <i>Gallic War</i> I-VII	xi
Abbreviations	xxii
<i>dē bellō Gallicō</i> VII 63-90 with vocabulary and commentary	1
Appendix A: Proper Nouns in the Text	109
Appendix B: Gallic <i>Libertās</i> and <i>Servitūs</i> in <i>dē bellō Gallicō</i>	113
Glossary	125

ILLUSTRATIONS

A Gallic soldier	vi
Gaul in the mid-1st century BCE	xxi
A Roman soldier	xxiv
Vercingetorix coerces the Gallic cities with hostages	3
A map of the geography at the <i>oppidum</i> of Alesia	24
An example of a <i>lilium</i>	44
The women and children of Alesia before the Roman lines	68
Gallic archers among their cavalry	73
Implements of warfare	76
The arrival of Caesar	102

ABOUT THIS EDITION

This book is the culmination of student work in the advanced Latin course at Stanford Online High School in the academic year 2024–2025. It is the third of three books covering Caesar's *dē bellō Gallicō* VII. This volume, like all Pixelia volumes, is the result of a sustained collaboration between teacher and students. It is meant to aid intermediate Latin learners in reading texts without the need to constantly consult separate dictionaries and commentaries. John Lanier taught the course and devised the division of Book VII into three parts, such that each part was of the appropriate length for the students to complete in one academic year and roughly equivalent in content. The first volume, AVARICVM, includes chapters 1–28, covering the events of Book VII up to the fall of Avaricum; the second volume, GERGOVIA, chapters 29–62, up to the *dēfectiō* of the Aedui and the return of Labienus from Lutetia; this third volume, ALESIA, chapters 63–90, through the end of the book to the climax of the great battle at Alesia. All are available as open access pdfs at pixeliapublishing.org.

The student editors of ALESIA were Sammy Al-Hamwy, Ruthie Eastlund, Ethan Ish, Allison Kim, Zoe Kim, Yolaine Lefevre, Habte Martone, Hannah Poplack, Gabriel Salganick, and Nicolas Wang. We subdivided the text of Chapters 63–90 such that each student was the editor of their own section of around 350 words. As a first task, the students developed working translations of their sections in order to get a sense of the Latin and the basic narrative; they next developed and created the on-page vocabulary glosses; they then added and revised macrons¹ for all Latin text and vocabulary; and, finally, each student wrote explanatory commentary. The students were peer

¹ The macrons were added through a web app (alatus.com/macronizer), which is highly accurate but does require occasional corrections.

reviewers for each other at each step of the process, with Lanier as advisor, final editor, cartographer, and Introduction author.

Caesar has been a staple of Latin classrooms for centuries. His language is relatively straight-forward for beginners, and even in his own day it was a model for good Latin style (Cicero *Brutus* 262). Yet we should not let canonical status preempt critical scrutiny, and in Caesar's case re-examination is particularly warranted. The *Gallic War*, for all its good style, was written as a pretext for imperialism; or at least, the book was written about an imperial conquest, by the general carrying out that conquest, who presumably wrote it in a way that he thought would resonate with his audience back home. As for the book's traditional place in Latin classrooms over the last few centuries: it might well have had a certain appeal in early modern nations, like Britain and France, which had their own ambitions of imperial expansion. These same reasons might make Caesar less appealing today. And yet, *Gallic War* is an interesting and important text for students not despite this history but because of it.

Gallic War is a valuable witness to imperial expansion and its justification. In the space of a few hundred years, Rome grew from a village in central Italy to an empire encompassing nearly the whole Mediterranean world. What did Romans think of this expansion? How did Roman leaders justify it? Caesar's *Gallic War* provides a glimpse. Interestingly, it is not a text that downplays the violence of empire, nor does it show conquest to be an unalloyed good. It is Caesar himself who writes that at the sack of Avaricum, his troops massacred 40,000 inhabitants, sparing "not the elderly, nor women, nor children" (*BG* 7.28.4). Though Caesar's commentaries are sometimes dismissed as self-aggrandizing propaganda, he often presents a Gallic perspective which is complex and often even sympathetic.

Book VII is filled with Caesar's observations about his opponents' motivations and characters: the Gauls are cunning, creative, brave, tenacious,

patriotic, but also self-serving, greedy, fractious, and impetuous—in other words, very much like Caesar’s peers back in Rome. Sometimes Caesar gives the Gallic perspective in the Gauls’ own words, or at least what he imagines those words to have been. This complexity is particularly evident in Book VII, which narrates the final attempt of the Gauls to safeguard their freedom under the leadership of the Gallic chieftain Vercingetorix. He is, for Caesar, the Gallic Hannibal or Mithridates, a brilliant and charismatic leader who is able, for perhaps the first time, to fully marshal the latent strength of a united Gaul and oppose Caesar’s legions on something like equal footing. He rallies the Gauls with impassioned calls for *libertās*, a value which Romans held dearly (BG 7.4.4). *Gallic War* Book VII is an ideal text for students because it allows them to experience, in Latin, a pivotal moment in history from the complex perspective of one of its chief actors.

The current project was born out of my (Lanier’s) wish to read Caesar’s *Gallic War* VII selections with students in the advanced Latin course at Stanford Online High School. At that time (2022), options for a modern edition of *Gallic War* VII with running commentary (in English) were quite limited. A new full Cambridge commentary² by Stanford’s Christopher Krebs came in 2023, the first major new commentary since Whiteley’s “blue” Bristol edition.³ This new resource is excellent, but is meant for advanced undergraduates and graduate students, and the notes, while comprehensive, are beyond what a typical early Latin reader requires or can easily parse. Whiteley’s Bristol book is sometimes difficult to acquire new, and the price of used copies is often prohibitive. In addition, I felt Whiteley’s commentary to be somewhat sparse for early Latin readers, and wanted same-page vocabulary and commentary. Geoffrey Steadman has put out an

² C. Krebs, ed. *Caesar: Bellum Gallicum Book VII* (Cambridge University Press, 2023)

³ J.L. Whiteley, ed. *Caesar: Gallic War VII* (Bristol Classical Press, 2001)

edition of *Gallic War I* and an edition of selections of Caesar in his *Collegae Caesar* (though the latter does not draw from *BG VII*).⁴ It is our hope that this book, along with the two related volumes, will serve as an accessible and useful guide in reading the lengthy and often difficult, but ultimately essential, seventh book of Caesar's *Gallic War*.

Because Pixelia volumes are student-focused and truly collaborative, we have always felt that a shared byline of authors is most appropriate (even if unwieldy), and we continue that practice here. Special thanks is due to student Sammy Al-Hamwy for compiling Appendix B: *Gallic Libertās* and *Servitūs* in *Caesar*. Tom Hendrickson paved the way by developing the idea of Pixelia, designing the class, and supervising Pixelia's first two Latin volumes (*The Passion of Perpetua* and *Isotta Nogarola's Defense of Eve*). We are indebted to OHS student Suran Gao for illustrations in all three volumes. OHS instructors Tom Hendrickson, Caedmon Haas, Ben Wiebracht, and Anna Pisarello provided valuable grammatical insight and editorial advice. We also thank Tomohiro Hoshi (Head of School, Stanford Online High School), Josh Carlson (Director of Business Operations), and Christine Gosnay (Associate Director of Business Operations) for their continued support of the Pixelia project.

The Latin text in this volume is in the public domain and comes from the Loeb edition of 1917,⁵ in consultation with the Oxford Classical Text and its *apparatus criticus*.⁶ We have made no substantial changes to the text, and have generally chosen the simplest or most readable option in disputed or corrupted sections. We have sometimes altered punctuation to promote ease of reading.

⁴ Both available on his website, geoffreysteadman.com

⁵ H. J. Edwards, trans., *Caesar. The Gallic War*, Loeb Classical Library 72 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1917).

⁶ R. L. A. Du Pontet, ed. *C. Iuli Caesaris: Commentariorum, Vol. 1: Libri VII de Bello Gallico* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1900).



INTRODUCTION

Gallic War Book VII in context

In the winter of 53 BCE, Caesar crossed the Alps back into northern Italy with a sense that Gaul was finally *quiēta*, if not *pācāta*. He had been waging war there for over five years already. The conflict had begun as a swift preventative action against the Helvetii as they attempted to move their entire tribe through the territory of the Roman province of *Gallia Trānsalpīna*. Caesar's defensive action, at the very beginning of his tenure as governor of *Gallia Trānsalpīna*, steadily transformed into a campaign of conquest and subjugation which stretched far beyond the boundaries of his province. During those five years his force had grown to ten legions, some 50,000 soldiers all told. They had battled across Gaul numerous times on land and sea, ventured to Britain, bridged the Rhine twice, and withstood several serious challenges to the incremental establishment of Roman domination.

A year earlier, in 54 BCE, the most recent of these “rebellions,” a surprise attack by the Gallic champion Ambiorix, had killed thousands of Roman soldiers and two of Caesar's most trusted lieutenants. He responded swiftly and severely with the widespread devastation of the lands of those he held responsible, as well as the summary execution of the Gallic leader Acco (*BG* 6.44; 7.1). He hoped that these harsh measures would finally end Gallic resistance to what must have seemed to him to be inevitable: the organization of the vast Gallic territory he had seized into Roman provincial possessions. As he returned to northern Italy to attend to his gubernatorial tasks at the end of 53, his attention was surely already turning to the details of this process, and also to the simmering political turmoil back in Rome, about which he makes brief mention in the opening chapter of Book VII.

He had no way of knowing, as the new year began and as the miles grew between himself and his legions back in winter camps in central Gaul, that the Gallic tribes were by no means *quiētī* and would soon explode with their final and most desperate bid for *libertās*.

Book VII of *Gallic War* chronicles this final struggle of the Gauls against Roman domination. It begins, as was typical for Gallic uprisings against Rome, with the leaders of the tribes holding a secret meeting. In past years, many had instigated uprisings only to be crushed by Caesar's swift reprisal: the Belgae in 57, the Veneti in 56, the Morini in 55, Ambiorix and his Eburones and then Indutiomarus and his Treveri in 54, Acco and the Senones in 53. This time, the instigator was the Carnutes tribe, and the epicenter was their chief town, Cenabum, where they slaughtered a number of unsuspecting Roman businessmen. These *negōtiātōrēs* had no doubt been busy with the various tasks of converting Gaul into a productive Roman possession: organizing slave routes, assessing mining potential, surveying arable land. Now their slaying became Caesar's justification for the wrathful campaign which follows. Cenabum's inhabitants would experience Roman retribution, but not before the uprising begun by the Carnutes had spread to a powerful coalition of tribes led by the Arverni and their electric and effective new leader, Vercingetorix, who promised *libertās commūnis* from Roman *servitūs* for all the Gauls (*BG* 7.4.4).

The initial stages of this uprising would result in the siege at Avaricum, the first real test for Vercingetorix and an abject defeat, as narrated in the *AVARICVM* volume (covering *BG* 7.1-28). The second volume, *GERGOVIA*, begins at chapter 29, where the young Arvernian leader attempts to rally his assembled Gallic contingents in the demoralizing aftermath. In this middle section, Caesar describes the teetering loyalties of the Aedui, his most important Gallic ally and the most powerful polity in all of Gaul. By his own admission, the loss of these allies would be a calamity

for Roman efforts in Gaul, and many of these chapters are devoted to that ever-developing problem. Meanwhile, the Gauls under Vercingetorix again find themselves on the defensive against Caesar's legions, this time at the Arvernian *oppidum* of Gergovia, from which Caesar would be forced to withdraw after a short siege and fierce but indecisive pitched battle. The second volume concludes with a brief digression to detail the campaign of Caesar's trusted legate Titus Labienus as he leads Roman forces deep into north-central Gaul along the Seine to the oppidum of Lutetia (modern Paris).

This third book in the trilogy, *ALESIA*, resumes Caesar's narrative at chapter 63. Like the beginning of *GERGOVIA* (chapter 29), the present volume begins with Vercingetorix addressing a large assembly of Gallic leaders. He recognized that the defection of the Aedui greatly increased the potency of the Gallic threat to the Roman presence in Gaul. For perhaps the first time, many of them might have begun to truly believe their struggle was winnable. After Caesar's defeat at, and withdrawal from, Gergovia and his desperate rush to reunite with the forces of Labienus among the Senones in the north, Vercingetorix must have been experiencing a heady elation—never before had the Gauls been so close to evicting the Romans from their territories. Unfortunately, this hope of victory is very quickly dulled as this volume unfolds, and all too soon we arrive at the scene which dominates this final third of the book: the great siege at Alesia, where Vercingetorix, far from leading a triumphant, final offensive, suddenly finds his army hemmed in and under threat of starvation by a tenacious and inexhaustible ring of ten Roman legions.

Caesar's account of this battle in these final chapters is not without its difficulties, and this has likely tended to keep the actual narrative of events

out of Latin classrooms. He is sometimes quite technical in his descriptions of fortifications and maneuvers (7.42-43, e.g.), and battle's narrative is by far the longest in *Gallic War* (7.79-89, not including the construction of the fortifications). It can also be difficult for students to fully envision such a vast and unusual battlefield. As is typical with Caesar, this great set-piece battle ends rather suddenly, with quick, indicative phrases and with a great deal of critical detail left out. Caesar, it seems, was also feeling the length of the narrative towards the end. He says virtually nothing about the aftermath: not the thousands of dead, nor the reconciliation with the Aedui, nor the capture of Vercingetorix, nor the reaction of Gaul to this most impactful and ultimately most punishing defeat. The notes in this volume make the more difficult Latin sentences more accessible to readers and fill the information that Caesar often omits.

For a detailed introduction to Gaul, Caesar, and *Gallic War*, consult the excellent open-access Web Essays⁷ provided as part of the *Landmark Julius Caesar*, edited and translated by Kurt A. Raafflaub (New York: Pantheon Books, 2017). In particular, students new to *Gallic War* will find useful: *Gaul in Caesar's Time* by O. Büchschütz; *Oppida: Towns in Caesar's World* by I. Ralston; *The Roman Army Camp* by D.B. Campbell; *Military Engineering and Sieges* by D.B. Campbell; *Military Logistics* by N. Rosenstein; *Caesar the General and Leader* by L. De Blois; and *The Roman Commentarius and Caesar's Commentaries* by K.A. Raafflaub. For those who wish to go deeper on linguistic, literary, and historical issues in the text, the Christopher Krebs commentary of 2023 will prove invaluable.

⁷ Visit thelandmarkcaesar.com

Timeline of events for *Gallic War I-VII* (all dates are BCE)

BOOK I

1.1-5 (61-Spring 58): The Helvetii are persuaded by Orgetorix, an ambitious Helvetian leader, to migrate from their country. They burn their homes and prepare for a long journey.

1.6-9 (Mar-April 58): The Helvetii try to pass through the Roman Province of Gallia Transalpina on their migration, but Caesar prevents them. They instead pass through the territory of the Sequani.

1.10-15 (April-June 58): Caesar grows concerned about the Helvetian migration and decides to intervene, pursuing the Helvetii on their march. The Helvetii harass the Romans.

1.16-20 (June 58): Caesar learns from Liscus, the chief official of the Aedui, that the influential aristocrat Dumnorix has been building an opposing faction within the Aedui to undermine Roman influence. Caesar places him under guard.

1.21-29 (June-July 58): Caesar launches an attack against the Helvetii. After a difficult battle, the Helvetii surrender, and Caesar pursues and captures a group of Helvetian runaways.

1.30-36 (July-Aug 58): Gallic emissaries come to thank Caesar and hold a Gallic council, led by the druid Diviciacus. He informs Caesar that the German king, Ariovistus, has settled in Sequani territory, and the Gauls need Roman assistance. Caesar promises his help and exchanges messages with the hostile Ariovistus, who does not respond to his warnings.

1.37-45 (Aug-Sep 58): The Romans advance towards Ariovistus. Caesar and Ariovistus meet, each with a group of cavalry; Caesar reiterates his demands, which Ariovistus again refuses.

1.46-50 (Sep 58): After the German horsemen attack Caesar during the parley, hostilities ensue. Caesar leaves his forces in battle formation, but Ariovistus declines to fight a decisive battle.

1.51-54 (Sep-Oct 58): Caesar forces the Germans to react by closely approaching their camp. The two armies clash, and the Germans flee to the Rhine; Ariovistus escapes. Caesar leads his army to winter quarters among the Sequani.

BOOK II

2.1-4 (Winter 58-July 57): Caesar learns that the Belgae are plotting against the Romans and joins his army at Vesontio, an *oppidum* of the Sequani. The Remi, one of the tribes of the Belgae, surrender to Caesar.

2.5-11 (July-Aug 57): Caesar saves the Remi *oppidum* of Bibrax from an attack by the Belgae, who make a camp nearby. The Romans and Belgae do battle, and after suffering heavy losses, the Belgae decide to return home; the Romans pursue and slaughter them.

2.12-14 (Aug 57): Caesar leads his army to Noviodunum, the capital of the Suessiones. The Suessiones surrender, followed by the Bellovaci and the Ambiani.

2.15-18 (Aug 57): The Nervii, neighbors of the Ambiani, resent the other Belgae for surrendering, and lie in wait for the Romans across the Sabis River.

2.19-28 (Aug-Sep 57): Caesar leads a difficult battle against the courageous Nervii. Following a decisive Roman victory, the Nervii women and elders surrender, and Caesar treats them with mercy.

2.29-33 (Sep-Oct 57): The Atuatuaci, who were on their way to assist the Nervii, move everything to a single fortified town, where they are besieged

by the Romans. Caesar agrees to spare them if they give up their weapons; they agree, but only give up two-thirds of their weapons. After a failed sortie, they are defeated and sold into slavery.

2.34-35 (Oct-Nov 57): Caesar learns that the maritime Gauls have surrendered to his legate, Crassus. He declares that all of Gaul has been pacified and sends his legions to winter quarters; the Roman Senate decrees a fifteen-day public thanksgiving.

BOOK III

3.1-6 (Sep-Nov 57): After the legate Galba opens a safe route through the Alps, the Gauls attack at Octodorus. The Romans kill a third of the 30,000 Gauls with a final charge.

3.7-16 (Dec 57-Sep 56): The maritime Veneti tribe takes Roman officials hostage; other tribes follow suit. After a meeting with the other triumvirs Pompey and Crassus in northern Italy, Caesar hurries to the western Gallic coast. He orders a fleet to be built and sends legates with forces to stop the troubles from spreading. He then defeats the Veneti on the sea and punishes them.

3.17-19 (July-Sep 56): Caesar sends the legate Sabinus against the Venelli. He defeats them after baiting them to attack by feigning cowardice. The entire region surrenders.

3.20-22 (Aug-Sep 56): The Sotiates attack the legate Crassus, but quickly surrender. The enemy commander Adiatunnus attacks separately but he soon surrenders as well.

3.23-27 (Sep 56): Crassus then sets out against the Vocates and Tarusates, and after storming their camp kills many. Most of Aquitania surrenders to Crassus.

3.28-29 (Oct-Nov 56): Caesar is unsuccessful in catching the last remaining tribes, the Morini and Menapii. He burns their crops and buildings before sending the legions to their winter camps.

BOOK IV

4.1-11 (Dec-Jun 55): Caesar responds to German incursions into Gaul; he attempts negotiations.

4.12-15 (May-Jun 55): The Germans attack Caesar's unsuspecting army. Caesar leads the legions to the enemy camp and slaughters them.

4.16-19 (Jun-Jul 55): Caesar builds a bridge across the Rhine, then crosses into Germania to ravage Sugambri territory and help the Ubii. After eighteen days he returns and dismantles the bridge.

4.20-27 (Jul-Sep 55): Caesar decides to cross to Britain and gives his reasons. He assembles two legions and cavalry, but the cavalry get separated and do not arrive in Britain. The Romans force a landing against the resistance of the Britons on a beach overlooked by cliffs; though they struggle in the deep water at first, the legions quickly defeat the Britons once they are able to assemble on the beach.

4.28-36 (Sep-Oct 55): The Roman ships are destroyed in a storm. Seeing this, the Britons violate their surrender terms and launch a surprise attack. Caesar is prepared and defeats them again. His soldiers manage to salvage some of the wrecked ships and the Romans limp back to Gaul.

4.37-38 (Oct 55): Roman cavalry saves some errant legionnaires from the Morini, then the legate Labienus defeats the Morini and ravages their territory. The legions go into winter camps and the Roman Senate decrees a twenty-day thanksgiving for the exploits of the year.

BOOK V

5.1-7 (Jan-July 54): Caesar resolves to return to Britain in force. He deals with Gallic factional strife while his legions build ships at his instruction. The fleet's departure from Portus Itius is delayed by bad weather; meanwhile he orders many of the Gallic *principēs* to accompany him to Britain. Dumnorix the Aeduan refuses, flees, and is killed.

5.8-11 (July-Aug 54): The fleet lands in Britain and again a storm wrecks the ships. They are rebuilt and the Romans fortify a camp.

5.12-14 (July-Aug 54): Caesar provides a brief ethnography of the Britons.

5.15-22 (Aug-Sep 54): Caesar leads the Romans across the Thames into the territories of the British king Cassivellaunus, who launches sporadic attacks against the incoming armies. Caesar locates and seizes the stronghold of Cassivellaunus, who then fails to storm the Roman camp; he surrenders.

5.23-25 (Sep-Oct 54): The Romans return to Gaul. Caesar explains that due to a poor harvest the previous year, he is required to divide up his legions into more scattered winter camps than usual.

5.26-31 (Nov 54): The legates Sabinus and Cotta command a winter camp of fifteen cohorts among the Eburones. Ambiorix, their king, gives them warning of a coming pan-Gallic attack. In a debate, Sabinus suggests they evacuate the camp before the attack arrives, while Cotta advises that they remain and wait for Caesar's commands. Sabinus prevails, and the army leaves the camp at dawn.

5.32-39 (Nov 54): The departing Romans are ambushed by Ambiorix and are destroyed, despite their pleas for mercy. Emboldened by this success, the Nervii join the Eburones and they attack the legate Q. Cicero's camp of one legion in their territory.

5.40-48 (Nov 54): Q. Cicero rejects the Gauls' invitations to negotiate; in response, they surround the Roman camp and set it on fire. Refusing to

submit, the Romans' numbers dwindle until word of the attack finally reaches Caesar, who quickly sends reinforcements.

5.49–53 (Dec 54): The Gauls move to face the approaching reinforcements. The Romans pretend to be afraid and unprepared; the Gauls fall for the trap and are chased away. Caesar joins Cicero and offers praise for his level-headed conduct. Word of this victory spreads, delighting the Romans and discouraging the Gauls.

5.54–58 (Winter 54–53): Hearing word of rebellions, Caesar subdues the Gauls with threats and entreaties. Indutiomarus of the Treveri gathers troops and attacks the legate Labienus, who feigns fear until his cavalry is dispatched. Indutiomarus is killed and peace returns to Gaul.

BOOK VI

6.1–8 (Mar–June 53): Continued signs of trouble in Gaul and from beyond the Rhine compel Caesar to launch a campaign early in the year. He begins with the Nervii, quickly subdues them, and calls all the leaders of Gaul to him. Those that do not show up are assumed to be hostile. The Gallic chief Acco begins an uprising among the Senones. Caesar plans to isolate Ambiorix by denying him support from other Gallic tribes, and defeats the Senones, Carnutes, and Menapii in swift succession. The Romans ravage the territory of the Menapii. The Treveri are then subdued.

6.9–10 (July–Aug 53): Caesar bridges the Rhine for a second time and discovers that the Suebi have mobilized, but will not face the Romans in battle.

6.11–28 (Summer 53): Caesar provides a lengthy ethnographic description of the Gauls and Germans.

6.30–34 (Sep 53): Caesar returns to Gaul, destroys the bridge, and tries to apprehend Ambiorix in the Ardennes with cavalry. Ambiorix eludes

capture and instructs the Eburones to scatter and hide. Caesar splits the legions into three forces and leaves their baggage train with the legate Q. Cicero at Atuatuca, an *oppidum* of the Eburones. The legions devastate the lands of the absent Eburones and invite the neighboring Gallic tribes to do likewise.

6.35–42 (Sep–Oct 53): The Germanic Sugambri cross the Rhine to join in the plunder, but are enticed by the prospect of looting the Roman baggage stored at Q. Cicero's camp. Unaware, Cicero sends out foraging parties which are ambushed, resulting in many casualties. Despite this, the camp manages to fend off the attack and the Sugambri return to Germania empty-handed. Caesar returns to the camp and criticizes Q. Cicero for not following his instructions.

6.43–44 (Oct–Dec 53): Frustrated by his inability to apprehend Ambiorix, Caesar orders the legions to continue their campaign of scorched earth. At the close of the year he returns to Durocortum, an *oppidum* of the Remi, and orders Acco to be executed. He then sends the legions into their winter camps and returns to Cisalpine Gaul.

BOOK VII

7.1–3 (Jan–Feb 52): As the seventh year of the Gallic War begins, the Gauls begin to plan a rebellion. The Carnutes take the first steps by massacring the Roman traders at Cenabum.

7.4–5 (March 52): Vercingetorix begins his rebellion among the Arverni. He raises a large force of supporters and sends some to threaten the Roman Province of Gallia Transalpina, while others move against the Bituriges.

7.6–8 (March–April 52): Caesar, separated from his army, leads a makeshift force into Arvernian territory. Vercingetorix is forced to move to confront him.

7.9 (April 52): With only a small cavalry escort, Caesar races through Aeduan lands and quietly rejoins his main force.

7.10–13 (May 52) Caesar moves to counter the maneuvers of Vercingetorix, capturing Vellaunodunum, Cenabum, and Noviodunum in quick succession. He moves against Avaricum.

7.14–17 (May 52): Vercingetorix enacts a scorched-earth policy in an attempt to cut off Roman resupply, but the other Gallic *principes* convince him to spare the large *oppidum* Avaricum. He establishes a defensive position and the Romans begin the siege, despite lacking supplies.

7.18–22 (June 52): Caesar attempts a surprise attack, but withdraws due to the difficult terrain. Vercingetorix meanwhile must defend himself in a long oration against Gallic accusations of malfeasance.

7.23–28 (June 52): The Gauls defend Avaricum with tenacity and ingenuity, but the Romans eventually complete construction of an *agger* and breach the impressive walls. The legions plunder the town and massacre everyone they find. The few survivors make their way to the camp of Vercingetorix.

7.29–31 (June 52): In the aftermath of Avaricum, Vercingetorix holds a council of all the Gauls. He comforts them and pledges great victory in the future, which bolsters those assembled. They resolve to begin fortifying their positions, while Vercingetorix strives to add new Gallic tribes to the coalition.

7.32–33 (June 52): Caesar rests his legions and seizes a vast quantity of supplies from Avaricum. He is drawn into a political dispute among the Aedui, which he soon settles.

7.34–36 (July 52): Caesar sends Labienus north with four legions into the territories of the Senones and Parisii. He himself, after out-maneuvering and deceiving Vercingetorix, crosses the Elaver with six legions and advances on

Gergovia, the chief oppidum of the Arverni. He takes steps to begin a siege, while Vercingetorix arrays his forces to defend the town.

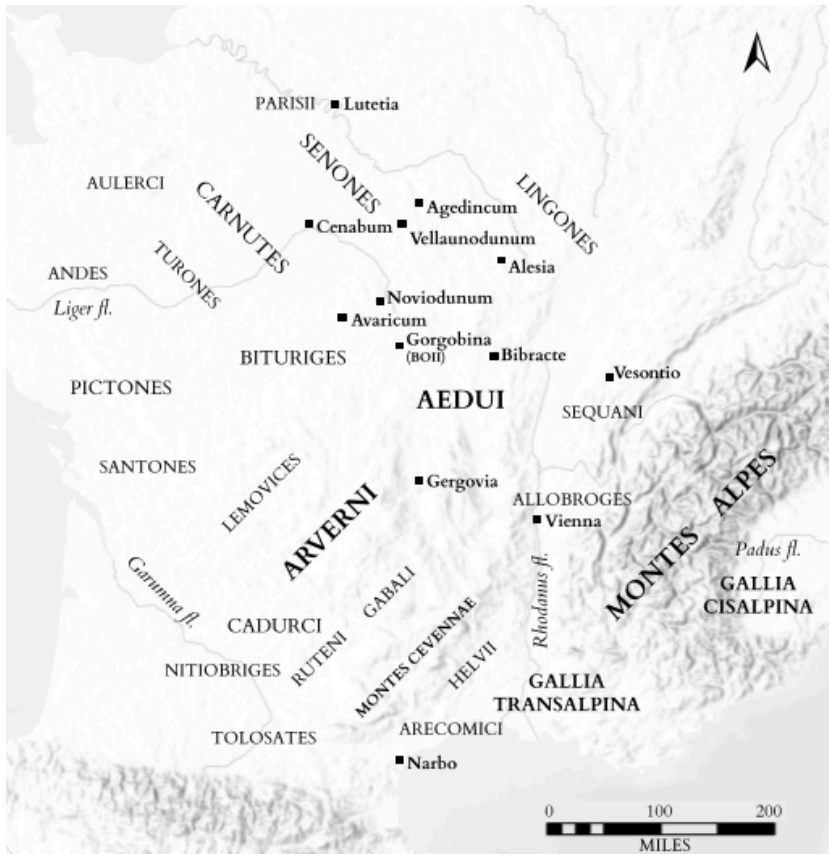
7.37–40 (July 52): The Aeduan nobleman Litaviccus, now the leader of the 10,000 auxiliaries marching to support Caesar's legions, convinces his men to change sides and kill the Romans with them. Caesar is informed of this by an ambitious young Aeduan and immediately takes four legions to confront the Aeduan auxiliary force. Remorseful, they drive away Litaviccus and rejoin the Roman cause.

7.41–43 (July 52): Caesar learns that his remaining two legions are under attack at Gergovia and hurries back. Meanwhile, the Aeduan populace has been convinced by the messages of Litaviccus and now commits atrocities against the Romans among them. When they finally learn of the flight of Litaviccus and the return of the 10,000 to Roman service, they beg Caesar for forgiveness, but secretly begin plans for war against him. Caesar indicates that he realizes this, but fears the consequences of losing Aeduan support in Gaul. He secretly resolves to get away from the siege at Gergovia and reunite with Labienus.

7.44–53 (August 52): After a series of maneuvers and deceptions, the Romans make a calculated attack, but the operation fails due to a lapse of discipline among the legions. Caesar reprimands them and, after Vercingetorix declines a second battle, withdraws from Gergovia and heads toward Aeduan territory.

7.54–56 (August 52): The Aedui, led by two of Caesar's former Aeduan favorites, seize the town of Noviodunum and with it an enormous stash of Roman grain, money, horses, and hostages. They attempt to prevent Caesar from crossing the Liger, but he again succeeds with a deceptive maneuver and moves towards Labienus.

7.57-62 (June-August 52): The narrative shifts to Labienus and his four legions in the north. He is marching against the Parisii when he receives news of Caesar's troubles. In a rapid and skillful series of maneuvers, he defeats an assembled army of Gauls and hastily rejoins Caesar in the territory of the Senones.



The major tribes and towns of Gaul in the mid-1st century BCE

ABBREVIATIONS

abl.: ablative

abs.: absolute

acc.: accusative

act.: active

adv.: adverb

BC: Bellum Cīvile

BG: dē Bellō Gallicō

Caes.: Caesar

comp.: comparative

dat.: dative

gen.: genitive

pass.: passive

peri.: periphrastic

impers.: impersonal

impf.: imperfect

infin.: infinitive

lit.: literally

nom.: nominative

PAP: present active participle

pl.: plural

PPP: perfect passive participle

prep.: preposition

pres.: present

rel.: relative

sg.: singular

subj.: subject

Verc.: Vercingetorix

ALESIA

dē bellō Gallicō VII 63–90

with Running Vocabulary and Commentary



[63] *The Aedui demand the leadership from Vercingetorix*

1 Dēfectiōne Aeduōrum cognitā bellum augētur. Lēgātiōnēs
in omnēs partēs circummittuntur: 2 quantum grātiā,
auctōritāte, pecūniā valent, ad sollicitandās cīvitātēs nītuntur;

auctoritās, -tātis f.: authority,
resolve

augeō, -ēre, auxī, auctus: increase

circummittō, -ere, -mīsī,
-missus: send around

dēfectiō, -iōnis f.: revolt, rebellion

grātiā, -ae f.: (here) favor; charm

lēgātiō, -iōnis f.: representative

nītor, nītī, nīxus: strive for

pecunia, -ae f.: money

sollicitō (1): (here) incite, rouse

valeō, -ēre, -uī, -itus: (here) be
able

Dēfectiōne Aeduōrum cognitā: ablative absolute; the Aedui had been Rome's best and largest ally in Gaul. With their joining of the uprising of Vercingetorix, many weaker states might now be convinced to join also. Caes. refers to Gallic struggles against Roman *imperium* as *dēfectiō*, even though the formalization of the conquered territory as new provinces had not yet been formalized. For the complicated series of events of the Aeduan *dēfectiō*, see *Gergovia* (BG 7.29-62)

circummittuntur: that is, by Verc.

quantum...valent: *as far/much as they are able*; with three ablatives of means

ad sollicitandās cīvitātēs: *ad* + gerund to express purpose; *cīvitās* is Caesar's typical term for Gallic tribal states

3 nactī obsidēs, quōs Caesar apud eōs dēposuerat, hōrum suppliciō dubitantēs territant. 4 Petunt ā Vercingetorīge Aeduī ut ad sē veniat ratiōnēsq̄e bellī gerendī commūnicet.

commūnicō (1): share, impart

dēpōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positus:
place, put away

dubitō (1): doubt; hesitate

nancīscor, -ī, nactus: obtain, find

obses, obsidis m.: hostage

supplicium, -iī n.: punishment,
torture, distress

territō (1): terrify

territant: *constantly terrify*; a frequentative verb built from *terrēre*

obsidēs; hōrum suppliciō; dubitantēs (acc.): Caes. had collected hostages from all over Gaul during the past seven years of conflict as a means of enforcing agreements, and had imprisoned many of them among the Aedui (*apud eōs*) at Bibracte (see note at 7.63.5). Verc. and the Aedui now use the threat of violence against those same hostages to compel the allegiance of remaining reluctant (*dubitantēs*) tribes

ut...veniat...commūnicet: indirect commands after *petunt*; use *ad sē* with both.
ratiōnēsq̄e bellī gerendī: *and his plans for waging war*; *ratiō* here is “plan” rather than “reason”; *bellī gerendī* is a gerundive phrase idiomatically replacing a gerund and its object (*gerendī bellum*)



Vercingetorix obsidibus civitatibus Galliae dubitantibus territat.

5 Rē impetrātā contendunt ut ipsīs summa imperiī trādātur, et
rē in contrōversiam dēductā tōtīus Galliae concilium
Bibracte indīcitur. Eōdem conveniunt undique frequentēs.

contendō, -ere, -tendī, -tentus:

(here) demand

contrōversia, -ae f.: contention,

quarrel

dēdūcō, -ere, -dūxī, -ductus:

draw out; turn aside

impetrō (1): achieve, gain

indīcō, -ere, -dīxī, -dictus:

declare

frequēns, -ntis: (here) in great
numbers

trādō, -ere, -didī, -itus: surrender,

hand over

undique: from all around, on all

sides

contendunt: Caes. regularly uses this verb as “hurry to,” but here it means “strive for” in the sense of demanding, followed by an indirect command of what they sought

summa imperiī: *right to command*; the Aedui and the Arverni, the tribe of Verc., had been rivals in Gaul for decades, with each controlling a faction of weaker tribes. By their alliance with Rome during the first half of the 1st c. BCE, the Aedui had become very prosperous, and now assume they will lead the great uprising begun by Verc., whom they may have regarded as an illegitimate representative of the Arverni (see *BG* 7.4.2-3)

rē...dēductā: abl. abs.

tōtīus Galliae concilium: *an assembly of all Gaul*; note the difference between *concilium* (assembly) and *consilium* (plan)

Bibracte: locative; Bibracte was a major *oppidum* of the Aedui at Mount Beuvray near modern Autun

eōdem: *to the same [place]*

6 Multitūdinis suffrāgiīs rēs permittitur: ad ūnum omnēs Vercingetorīgem probant imperātōrem. 7 Ab hōc conciliō Rēmī, Lingonēs, Trēverī āfuērunt: illī, quod amīcitiā Rōmānōrum sequēbantur; Trēverī, quod aberant longius et ab Germānīs premēbantur, quae fuit causa quārē tōtō abessent bellō et neutrīs auxilia mitterent.

absum, abesse, afuī: be absent
from

neuter, -tra, -trum: neither

permittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missus:
(here) leave to, entrust to (+ dat.)

probō (1): (here) approve of,
recommend

quārē: how, why; by which means

suffrāgium, -iī n.: vote

rēs: *the matter*; that is, the question of who will lead the Gauls against the Romans
ad ūnum: *to one, to a man*; prepositional phrase modifying *omnēs*, indicating unanimity

Rēmī, Lingonēs, Trēverī: three powerful Gallic tribes around what is now central northern France and southern Belgium; Caes. perhaps mentions their absence here because if they had cooperated with Verc., the situation for the Romans would have been significantly more dangerous

illī: the nom. pl. here refers to the first two groups in the list: the Remi and the Lingones; the verb is an implicit repetition of *āfuērunt*

Trēverī: nom. pl., again with *āfuērunt* assumed

auxilia: supporting forces

8 Magnō dolōre Aeduī ferunt sē dēiectōs prīncipātū,
queruntur fortūnae commūtātiōnem et Caesaris
indulgentiam in sē requirunt, neque tamen susceptō bellō
suum cōsiliū ab reliquīs sēparāre audent. 9 Invītī summae
speī adulēscentēs, Eporedorix et Viridomarus, Vercingetorīgī
pārent.

commūtātiō, -iōnis f.: change
dēiciō, -ere, -iēcī, -īctus: throw
down, hurl down
indulgentia, -ae f.: forbearance
invītus, -a, -um: unwilling
pāreō, -ēre, -uī: obey (+ dat.)
prīncipātus, -ūs m.: leadership

queror, -ī, questus: complain
requirō, -ere, -quisivī, -quisitus:
(here) miss, feel the absence of
sēparō (1): sever, separate
spēs, speī f.: hope
suscipiō, -ere, -cēpī, -ceptus:
undertake

ferunt: *say, report*

dēiectōs: supply *esse*; indirect statement dependent on *ferunt*

susceptō bellō: *since the war had been undertaken*; abl. abs. with a causal sense

ab reliquīs: that is, from the plans of the other Gauls

summae speī: gen. of description with *adulēscentēs*

invītī...pārent: *unwillingly obey*; lit. “unwilling (nom. pl.), they obey”

Eporedorix et Viridomarus: young Aeduan leaders who had played a key role
in the Aeduan decision to switch sides against the Romans; see *BG* 7.39

[64] *Vercingetorix gathers allies and attacks the Province*

1 Ipse imperat reliquīs cīvitatibus obsidēs diemque eī reī cōstituit. Omnēs equitēs, quīndecim mīlia numerō, celeriter convenīre iubet; 2 peditātū quem anteā habuerit sē fore contentum dīcit, neque fortūnam temptātūrum aut in aciē dīmīcātūrum, sed, quoniam abundet equitātū, perfacile esse factū frūmentātiōnibus pābulātiōnibusque Rōmānōs prohibēre,

abundō (1): overflow, stream over
aciēs, acieī f.: battle line
anteā: before, earlier, formerly
contentus, -a, -um: satisfied;
pleased
dīmīcō (1): fight, do battle
frūmentātiō, -iōnis f.: forage;
supply
obses, obsidis m.: hostage

pābulātiō, -iōnis f.: foraging
peditātus, -ūs m.: foot-soldiers,
infantry
perfacilis, -e: very easy
prohibeō, -ēre, -uī, -itus: keep
off, keep away from, hinder
quīndecim: fifteen
temptō (1): try, test

Ipse: Verc.

eī reī: *for that matter*; that is, for the transferring of hostages

numerō: *in number*; abl. of respect

sē fore contentum: *that he will be content*; *fore = futūrum esse*, the first in a string of three coordinated future infinitives (*fore...temptātūrum...dīmīcātūrum*) and a present infinitive (*sed...perfacile esse*) in indirect statement

habuerit: perf. subjunctive, because the rel. clause is within an indirect statement

abundet: subjunctive in a clause subordinate to an indirect statement

factū: *to do*; a rare ablative supine, which sets up *prohibēre*

frūmentātiōnibus pābulātiōnibusque: abl. of separation with *prohibēre*

3 *aequō modo animō sua ipsī frūmenta corrumpant aedificiaque incendant, quā reī familiāris iactūrā perpetuum imperium libertātemque sē cōsequī videant.* 4 *Hīs cōstitūtīs rēbus Aeduīs Segūsiāvīsque, quī sunt fīnitimī prōvinciae, decem mīlia peditum imperat; hūc addit equitēs octingentōs.* 5 *Hīs praeficit frātre[m] Eporedorigis bellumque inferrī Allobrogibus iubet.*

addō, -ere, -didī, -itus: attach,
join, place upon

aedificium, -iī n.: structure

cōsequor, -ī, -secūtus: achieve

corrumpō, -ere, -rūpī, -ruptus:
destroy, ruin, waste

familiāris, -e: of the house or
family

fīnitimus, -a, -um: neighboring

iactūra, -ae f.: loss; detriment

incendō, -ere, -cendī, -census:
kindle, burn

inferō, -ferre, -tulī, -lātus: bring
in, inflict

octingentī, -ae, -a: eight hundred

praeficiō, -ere, -fēcī, -fectus:
place (acc.) in authority over (dat.)

aequō ... animō: *with equanimity*; lit. “with an even spirit”; by sacrificing their own supplies and houses, they would harm the Romans and bring about freedom

modo...corrumpant: *provided that they destroy*; proviso clause

quā... iactūrā...videant: *in order that by this loss they may see*; rel. clause of purpose

reī familiāris: the standard Latin term for property

Aeduīs Segūsiāvīsque: dat. with the following *imperat*

prōvinciae: that is, the Roman province of Gallia Transalpina

Allobrogibus: the Allobroges occupied territory within the boundaries of the Roman *prōvincia* and were well on the way to becoming Romanized by this time

6 Alterā ex parte Gabalōs proximōsque pāgōs Arvernōrum in Helviōs, item Rutēnōs Cadurcōsque ad finēs Volcārum Arecomīcōrum dēpopulandōs mittit. 7 Nihilōminus clandestīnīs nūntiīs lēgātiōnibusque Allobrogās sollicitat, quōrum mentēs nōndum ab superiōre bellō resēdisse spērābat. 8 Hōrum prīncipibus pecūniās, cīvitātī autem imperium tōtīus prōvinciae pollicētur.

clandestīnus, -a, -um: secret, hidden, concealed

dēpopulor, -ārī, -ātus: ravage, pillage, plunder

item: likewise, also

lēgātiō, -iōnis f.: representative

nōndum: not yet

nūntius, -ī m.: messenger

pāgus, -ī m.: village, canton

polliceor, -ērī, -itus: promise

prīnceps, -cipis m.: leader, chief

proximus, -a, -um: nearest

resideō, -ēre, -sēdī, ressus: (here)

settle, languish

sollicitō (1): (here) incite, rouse

spērō (1): hope, look for, trust

pāgōs: Smaller civic subdivisions of a Gallic tribe; Caes. sometimes provides their individual names, as at *BG* 1.124 and 1.27.4. The Gabali are separate from the Arverni but were under Arvernian hegemony

Helviōs...Volcārum Arecomīcōrum: these tribes were within or on the border with the Roman province in south central Gaul; the Ruteni and Cadurci were just on the other side of the border

ad finēs...dēpopulandōs: *to ravage the territory*; the noun *finis* (end, limit, boundary) frequently means “territory” in the plural

mittit: subject is still Verc.

nihilōminus.: *nonetheless*, in an adversative sense: even though Verc. has ordered an attack, he also hopes to sway the Allobroges to revolt against the Romans

ab superiōre bellō: *since the previous war*, which subjected them to Roman rule

resēdisse: *settled into idleness*

[65] *Caesar calls for German cavalry reinforcements*

1 Ad hōs omnēs cāsūs prōvīsa erant praesidia cohortium duārum et vīgintī, quae ex ipsā prōvinciā ab Lūciō Caesare lēgātō ad omnēs partēs oppōnēbantur. 2 Helviī suā sponte cum finitimīs proeliō congressī pelluntur et Gāiō Valeriō Donnotaūrō, Caburī filiō, prīncipe cīvitātis, complūribusque aliīs interfectīs intrā oppida ac mūrōs compelluntur. 3 Allobrogēs crēbrīs ad Rhodanum dispositīs praesidiīs magnā cum cūrā et dīligentiā suōs finēs tuentur.

cāsus, -ūs m.: event, occurrence

compellō, -pellere, -pulī, -pulsus:

drive together; compel, force

complūrēs, -plūrium: quite a few, many

congregior, congregī, congressus:

come together, meet

crēber, -bra, -brum: numerous; frequent, close

finitimus, -a, -um: neighboring

oppōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positus: set against; oppose

pellō, -ere, pepulī, pulsus: beat, strike, push

praesidium, -iī n.: guard, defense

prōvideō, -ēre, -vīdī, -vīsus: (here) prepare, provide

spons, spontis f.: free will, accord

tueor, tuērī, tūtus: watch; guard

vīgintī: twenty

cohortium: a cohort (*cohors, cohortis f.*) was roughly 480 soldiers, one tenth of a legion; these 22 cohorts therefore numbered about 10,500, over two full legions, but were not organized as such and were likely a very *ad hoc* force

Helviī: subject of *pelluntur* and *compelluntur*; on the tribe, see 7.64.6

Donnotaūrō, Caburī filiō: nothing more is known about this Gaius Valerius Donnotaurus, but his father Caburus had been made a Roman citizen by C.

Valerius Flaccus in 83 BCE, a rare distinction for a Gaul at the time

ad Rhodanum: *along the Rhone river*

4 Caesar, quod hostēs equitātū superiōrēs esse intellegēbat et interclūsīs omnibus itineribus nūllā rē ex prōvinciā atque Ītaliā sublevārī poterat, trāns Rhēnum in Germāniam mittit ad eās cīvitātēs quās superiōribus annīs pācāverat, equitēsque ab hīs arcessit et levis armātūrae peditēs, quī inter eōs proeliārī cōsuērant. 5 Eōrum adventū, quod minus idōneīs equīs ūtēbantur, ā tribūnīs mīlitum reliquīsque equitibus Rōmānīs atque ēvocātīs equōs sūmit Germānīsque distribuit.

arcessō, -ere, -īvī, -ītum :

summon

armātūra, -ae f.: arms; equipment

cōnsuēscō, -ere, -suēvī, -suētus:

be accustomed to

idōneus, -a, -um: suitable, fit,

convenient

interclūdo, -ere, -clūsī, -clūsus:

block, cut off

levis, -e: light

pacō (1): pacify, subdue

proelior, -āri, -ātus: fight

sublevō (1): support, lift up

sūmō, -ere, sūmpsī, sūmptus: take

ūtor, ūtī, ūsus: use (+ abl.)

nūllā rē: *in no way*; abl. of means with *sublevārī*

levis armātūrae peditēs: light-armed foot soldiers

Eōrum adventū: *at their arrival*; abl. of time when

minus idōneīs: *less suitable (for fighting)*; the *minus* here is an adverb; the German tribes seem to have sent the worst horses in their paddocks

tribūnīs mīlitum: the tribunes of the soldiers, typically young, lower-ranking officers in the legions in this time period

equitibus Rōmānīs: here not horsemen, but rather men in the army of the *eques* social rank—tribunes of the soldiers, prefects, cavalry commanders, etc. We must assume that at least some of these had their own horses, even though they did not fight as cavalry troopers; cf *BG* 7.60

ēvocātī: these were veteran legionnaires who had been called back into service

[66] *Vercingetorix schemes about attacking the Romans*

1 Intereā, dum haec geruntur, hostium cōpiae ex Arvernīs equitēsque quī tōtī Galliae erant imperātī conveniunt. 2 Magnō hōrum coactō numerō, cum Caesar in Sēquanōs per extrēmōs Lingonum finēs iter faceret, quō facilius subsidium prōvinciae ferrī posset, circiter mīlia passuum decem ab Rōmānīs trīnīs castrīs Vercingetorīx cōnsēdit

circiter: about, nearly

cōnsīdō, -ere, -sēdī, -sessus: take position; settle, sit down

extrēmus, -a, -um: farthest, outer

finis, finis m.: border; end, limit

intereā: meanwhile

subsidium, -iī n.: help, assistance

trīnus, -a, -um: triple

dum haec geruntur: *while these things were being carried out*

tōtī Galliae: *from all Gaul; dat. with the verb imperātī*

hōrum: referring back to the *equitēs* (“horsemen”)

quō facilius subsidium prōvinciae ferrī posset: *so that assistance might be brought more easily to the province; rel. purpose clause*

circiter mīlia passuum decem: *around 10 thousand paces; 30 Roman miles*

trīnīs castrīs: *in a triple camp; take with Vercingetorīx cōnsēdit* (“Verc. settled”); by this time, the Gauls were regularly creating fortified positions like the Roman *castra*, though seemingly not quite so organized in their arrangement

ab Rōmānīs: *away from the Romans; the ab here is the simple preposition*

3 convocātisque ad concilium praefectis equitum vēnisse
tempus victōriae dēmōnstrat. Fugere in prōvinciam Rōmānōs
Galliāque excēdere. 4 Id sibi ad praesentem obtinendam
libertātem satis esse; ad reliquū temporis pācem atque ōtium
parum prōfici;

convocō (1): call together, assemble

obtineō, -ēre, -uī, -tentus: take
hold of, assert; possess

otium, -iī n.: rest, recovery

parum: too little

praefectus, -ī m.: commander;
manager

praesēns, praesentis: present

proficio, -ere, -fēcī, -fectus:
advance, make headway

satis: enough, adequately,
sufficiently

praefectis equitum: Caes. uses the equivalent term for a Roman sub-commander (“prefect”) here to refer to the unnamed leaders of the assembled Gallic cavalry.

They were likely *principēs* and young *nōbilēs* of the various tribal contingents.

vēnisse tempus victōriae dēmōnstrat: the beginning of indirect discourse that continues through the next several sentences

fugere: indirect discourse after *dēmōnstrat* from previous sentence; subject is *Rōmānōs*

Galliāque: *from Gaul*; abl. of separation with *excēdere*

ad praesentem obtinendam libertātem: *for obtaining present liberty*; the gerundive *obtinendam* takes its case from its role in the sentence (ad + acc.) but its number and gender from its direct object (*libertātem*)

ad reliquū temporis pācem: *for peace in the future*

parum prōfici: *it contributes too little towards* (+ ad)

maiōribus enim coāctīs cōpiīs reversūrōs neque finem bellandī factūrōs. Proinde agmine impedītōs adorīrentur. 5 Sī peditēs suīs auxiliū ferant atque in eō morentur, iter facere nōn posse; sī, id quod magis futūrum cōnfīdat, relictīs impedīmentīs suae salūtī cōnsulant, et ūsū rērum necessariārum et dignitāte spoliātum irī.

adorior, -īrī, adortus: assail, attack
agmen, -minis n.: line of march, formation; force

bellō (1): fight, wage war

cōnfidō, -ere, cōnfīsus: trust, confide in; be confident

cōnsulō, -ere, -uī, -tus: (here) look to, have concern for (+ dat.)

impediō, -īre, -īvī, -ītus: hinder

moror, -āri, -ātus: delay

proinde: hence

revertor, revertī, reversus: turn back, to return

spoliō (1): pillage, plunder

ūsus, -ūs m.: use, utility; benefit

maiōribus... coāctīs cōpiīs: *with greater forces gathered together; abl. abs.*

reversūrōs, factūrōs: future infinitives with understood *esse*; the subject is still *Rōmānōs*

adorīrentur: *let them attack them; jussive subjunctive in indirect speech*

in eō: *in it; referring back to the Roman foot soldiers bringing help in the previous clause*

nōn posse: still in indirect speech after *dēmōnstrat* in 66.2; subject is still *Rōmānōs*

id quod magis futūrum cōnfīdat: *the thing which he (Verc.) trusts will be more likely*

suae salūtī consulant: *look toward their own safety*

et ūsū...et dignitāte: *both...and*

spoliātum irī: *they (the Romans) would be deprived of; a rare future passive infinitive*

6 Nam dē equitibus hostium, quīn nēmō eōrum prōgredi modō extrā agmen audeat, et ipsōs quidem nōn dēbēre dubitāre, et quō maiōre faciant animō, cōpiās sē omnēs prō castrīs habitūrum et terrōrī hostibus futūrum.

agmen, -minis n.: line of march, formation; force

dignitās, -tātis: prestige, merit

modō: just, but, if only

nēmō, nūllius m.: no one

prōgredior, -ī, -gressus: go forth, advance

quīn: why not, in fact

terror, -ōris m.: dread, fear; panic

quīn nēmō eōrum prōgredi modō extrā agmen audeat: *that not one of them would dare progress even just beyond the column; follows nōn dēbēre dubitāre*

nōn dēbēre dubitāre: still in indirect speech after *dēmōnstrat* in 66.2; the subject is now *ipsōs* (“they themselves,” that is, the Gauls present for this speech)

cōpiās sē omnēs prō castrīs habitūrōs (esse): *that he would place all the troops in front of the camp*

quō maiōre faciant animō: *in order that they (his men) might act with greater zeal; rel. purpose clause*

terrōrī hostibus futūrum: *be a source of terror (dat. of purpose) for the enemies (dat. of reference); double dative construction*

7 Conclāmant equitēs sānctissimō iūreiūrاندō cōnfirmārī
oportēre: nē tēctō recipiātur, nē ad liberōs, nē ad parentēs, ad
uxōrem aditum habeat quī nōn bis per agmen hostium
perequitāsset.

aditus, -ūs m.: approach, entrance

bis: twice

conclamō (1): cry out together

oportet, -ēre, -uit: be proper,
fitting

liberī, -ōrum mpl.: children

parēns, -entis m/f.: parent

perequitō (1): ride a horse through

sānctus, -a, -um: sacred, holy

tēctum, -ī n.: roof; house

uxor, -ōris f.: wife

iūreiūrاندō: *by swearing an oath*

nē... recipiātur, nē...habeat: clarifies the *sānctissimō iūreiūrاندō*

quī nōn bis per agmen hostium perequitāsset (= perequitāvisset): the implied
antecedent of this rel. clause is the subject of the prohibition of the oath

[67] *The Gallic cavalry attacks and is defeated*

1 Probātā rē atque omnibus iūreiūrāndō adāctīs posterō diē in trēs partēs distribūtō equitātū: duae sē aciēs ab duōbus lateribus ostendunt, ūna prīmō agmine iter impedīre coepit. 2 Quā rē nūntiātā Caesar suum quoque equitātum tripartītō dīvisum contrā hostem ire iubet. Pugnātur ūnā omnibus in partibus.

adigō, -ere, -ēgī, -āctus: drive on, urge; compel
aciēs, acieī f.: battle line
coepī, coepisse, coeptus: begin
dīvidō, -ere, -vīsī, -vīsus: divide
latus, lateris n.: side, flank

nūntiō (1): announce, report
ostendō, -ere, -tendī, -tentus: reveal, show
tripertītō: in three parts
ūnā: at once, all together

Probātā rē atque omnibus...adāctīs ...distribūtō equitātū: three abl.

absolutes in succession

iūreiūrāndō: *by swearing an oath*

aciēs: in the context of a Roman legion, the *aciēs* is the front-facing edge of the formation, often termed the *triplex aciēs*; here, the Gallic cavalry have formed three groups, with two forming on the sides of the Roman column and the last facing it directly

ostendunt...coepit: no conjunction connects these independent clauses

Quā rē nūntiātā: *this matter being announced*; connective relative

Pugnātur: *there is fighting*; impersonal passive

3 Cōnsistit agmen; impedīmenta intrā legiōnēs recipiuntur. 4
Sī quā in parte nostrī labōrāre aut gravius premī vidēbantur,
eō signa īnferri Caesar aciemque cōstituī iubēbat; quae rēs
et hostēs ad īnsequendum tardābat et nostrōs spē auxiliī
cōfirmābat.

aciēs, aciei f.: battle line

cōnsistō, -ere, -stitī, -stitus: stand
still/firm; halt, stop

eō: there, to that place (adv.)

gravis, -is: heavy; serious

īnferō, -ferre, -tulī, -lātus: bring
in

īnsequor, -ī, -secūtus: pursue

intrā: on the inside, within

premō, -ere, pressī, pressus: press,
(here) overwhelm, distress

signum, -ī n.: (here) military
standard

spēs, speī f.: hope

tardō (1): hinder, impede

Sī quā in parte: = *Sī in [ali]quā parte*

nostrī: *our (men);* substantive adjective

signa īnferri: the legions coordinated their formations and maneuvers by the
placement and movement of the *signa*

ad īnsequendum: *in regard to pursuing*

quae rēs: *and this thing;* connective relative, referring back to Caesar's commands

5 Tandem Germānī ab dextrō latere summum iugum nactī hostēs locō dēpellunt; fugientēs ūsque ad flūmen, ubi Vercingetorīx cum pedestribus cōpiīs cōnsēderat, persequuntur complūrēsque interficiunt. 6 Quā rē animadversā reliquī nē circumīrentur veritī sē fugae mandant. Omnibus locīs fit caedēs.

animadvertō, -ere, -vertī,

–**veresus:** notice, observe

circumeō, -īre, -iī, -itus: surround

complūrēs, -plūrium: quite a few, many

cōnsīdō, -ere, -sēdī, -sessus: take position; settle, sit down

dēpellō, -ere, -pulī, -pulsus:

drive/push out; repel

dexter, -tra, -trum: right,

right-hand, on the right

flūmen, flūminis n.: river

iugum, -ī n.: hill, ridge

latus, lateris n.: side, flank

mandō (1): deliver; order

nancīscor, -ī, nactus: obtain, find

pedester, -tris, -tre: walking, on foot

persequor, -ī, -secūtus: pursue; overtake

tandem: at last, finally

ūsque: all the way to

vereor, -ērī, -itus: fear, respect,

revere

summum iugum: *the top (of the) ridge*; Latin typically uses an adjective in agreement (*summus, -a, -um*) where English would use a genitive (“top of”)

nactī hostēs: *nactī* here is nom. with *Germānī*; while *hostēs* is acc. as the object of *dēpellunt*

locō: *from the place*; abl. of separation

nē circumīrentur: *that they would be surrounded*; fear clause with the following participle *veritī*

sē fugae mandant: *literally deliver themselves to flight*

Omnibus locīs: *in all places*; the preposition *in* is regularly omitted when *locus* is modified by an adjective

7 Trēs nōbilissimī Aeduī captī ad Caesarem perdūcuntur:
Cotus, praefectus equitum, quī contrōversiam cum
Convictolitāvī proximīs comitiīs habuerat; et Cavarillus, quī
post dēfectiōnem Litaviccī pedestribus cōpiīs praefuerat; et
Eporedorix, quō duce ante adventum Caesaris Aeduī cum
Sēquanīs bellō contenderant.

comitium, -iī n.: (here) election

contrōversia, -ae f.: contention,
quarrel

dēfectiō, -iōnis f.: desertion,
revolt, defection

nōbilis, -e: noble, well born

pedester, -tris, -tre: walking, on
foot

perdūcō, -ere, -ūxī, -uctus: lead
through, bring, conduct

praefectus, -ī m.: commander;
manager

praesum, -esse, -fuī, -futūrus: be
in charge of, preside over (+ dat.)

proximus, -a, -um: nearest; (here)
most recent

praefectus equitum: see note at *BG 7.66.2*

proximīs comitiīs: *in the most recent elections*; for this event, see *BG 7.32–33*

post dēfectiōnem Litaviccī: see *BG 7.38*

Eporedorix: not the Aeduan youth of the same name first introduced by Caes. at
BG 7.38.2

quō duce: *under whose leadership*

[68] *Vercingetorix retreats as Caesar advances and sets up camp*

1 Fugātō omnī equitātū Vercingetorīx cōpiās, ut prō castrīs collocāverat, redūxit prōtinusque Alesiam, quod est oppidum Mandūbiōrum, iter facere coepit celeriterque impedīmenta ex castrīs ēdūcī et sē subsequī iussit. 2 Caesar impedīmentīs in proximum collem dēductīs, duābus legiōnibus praesidiō relictīs, secūtus quantum diēi tempus est passum, circiter tribus mīlibus hostium ex novissimō agmine interfectīs, alterō diē ad Alesiam castra fēcit.

coepī, -isse, -tum: begin,

commence, undertake

collocō (1): station, arrange

fugō (1): cause to flee, put to flight

patior, patī, passus: allow; bear,

support, undergo

prōtinus: immediately

quantum: as much as

redūcō, -ere, redūxī, reductus:

lead back, withdraw

sequor, sequī, secūtus: follow

subsequor, -sequī, -secūtus:

follow closely

ut prō castrīs collocāverat: *since he had stationed (them) in front of the camps*

Alesiam: acc. of place to which

impedīmenta... ēdūcī et sē subsequī: *that the baggage... be brought out and follow close after him; two object infinitives with iussit, both with impedīmenta as the acc. subject*

impedīmentīs... dēductīs: abl. abs.; this is the Roman baggage train, not the Gallic *impedīmenta* mentioned in the previous sentence

praesidiō: *as a guard force; dat. of purpose*

ex novissimō agmine: *out of the rearmost rank*

ad Alesiam: *in the vicinity of Alesia*

3 *Perspectō urbis sitū perterritisque hostibus (quod equitātū, quā maximē parte exercitūs cōnfidēbant, erant pulsī) adhortātus ad labōrem mīlitēs circumvallāre īstituit.*

adhortor, -ārī, -ātus: encourage, urge

circumvallō (1): surround with a wall

cōnfidō, -ere, cōnfisus: trust confidently in something, confide in

pellō, -ere, pepulī, pulsus: drive out or away, expel, banish

perspicīō, -spicere, -spexī, -spectus: look, view, examine, inspect

perterreō, -ēre, -uī, -itus: frighten, terrify thoroughly

situs, -ūs m.: situation, local position, site

Perspectō urbis sitū: *After examining the position of the city; abl. abs.*

quod equitātū...erant pulsī: *because they had been routed with cavalry; equitātū is abl. of means*

quā...parte exercitūs cōnfidēbant: *the part of the army which they trusted the most; the antecedent of the rel. clause is equitātū, but there is some awkwardness since the equitātū in the previous clause was implicitly Caesar's, and here is Verc.'s*

[69] *Caesar evaluates Alesia's defenses and begins fortifications*

1 *Ipsum erat oppidum Alesia in colle summō admodum ēditō locō, ut nisi obsidiōne expugnārī nōn posse vidērētur*; 2 *cuius collis rādīcēs duo duābus ex partibus flūmina subluēbant.*

admodum: (here) entirely
ēditus, -a, -um: elevated, high, lofty
expugnō (1): capture, storm
flūmen, flūminis n.: river
obsidiō, -iōnis f.: siege, blockade
rādīx, rādīcis f.: foundation, base; root

subluō, -luere, -luī, -lūtus: wash underneath, flow below
summus, -a, -um: uppermost, highest, topmost
videō, -ēre, vīdī, vīsus: (here, in pass.) seem, appear

oppidum Alesia: Though some debate remains, the modern site is now widely accepted to be at Mont-Auxois, near Alise-Sainte-Reine in Burgundy. See Appendix A

in colle summō: *on the top (of the) hill*

ēditō locō: *on a high place*; the preposition *in* is regularly omitted when *locus* is modified by an adj.

ut...vidērētur: result clause

nisi obsidiōne: *unless by siege*

cuius collis: *of this hill*; connective relative

subluēbant: *were constantly flowing below*; an iterative imperfect

duo...flūmina: nom. subject of *subluēbant*; *rādīcēs* is the direct object

3 Ante id oppidum plānitiēs circiter mīlia passuum tria in
longitūdinem patēbat: 4 reliquīs ex omnibus partibus collēs
mediocrī interiectō spatiō parī altitudinis fastīgiō oppidum
cingēbant.

altitūdō, -inis f.: height; depth

cingō, -ere, cīnxī, cīnctus:

surround, encompass, encircle

fastīgium, fastīgiī n.: height;

elevation

intericiō, -iere -iēcī -iectus:

throw between, set between

longitūdō, -dinis f.: length

mediocris, -cris, -cre: of middling
size, medium, moderate

pateō, -ēre, -uī: lie open, extend

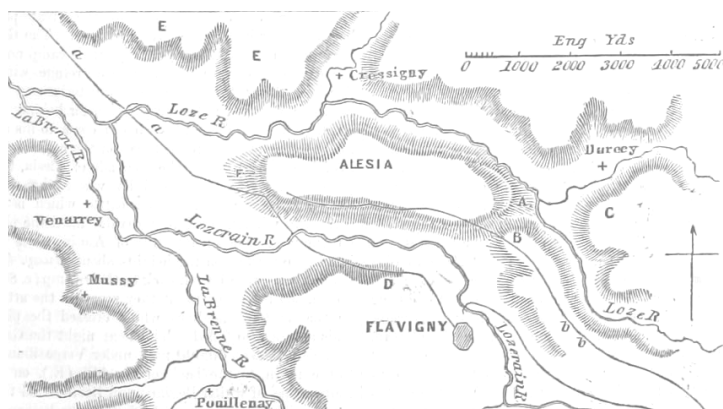
plānitiēs, -eī f.: level ground, plain

spatium, -iī n.: distance

circiter mīlia passuum tria: around three miles; lit. “around three thousands (of)
paces”

mediocrī interiectō spatiō: with a moderate distance set between (them); abl. abs.

parī altitudinis fastīgiō: with an equal extent of height, loosely; he means that the
surrounding hills were more or less the same height



From *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography* (1870) by W. Smith.

5 Sub mūrō, quae pars collis ad orientem sōlem spectābat, hunc omnem locum cōpiae Gallōrum complēverant fossamque et māceriam sex in altitūdinem pedum praedūxerant. 6 Eius mūnītiōnis quae ab Rōmānīs instituēbātur circuitus XI mīlia passuum tenēbat.

altitūdō, -inis f.: height

circuitus, -ūs m.: circumference

compleō, -ēre, -plēvī, -plētus: fill
up, fill out

fossa, -ae f.: ditch, trench

māceria, -ae f.: a modest wall

mūrus, -ī m.: wall, city wall

orior, -īrī, ortus: rise; be born

praedūcō, -dūcere, -dūxī,
-ductus: draw out before,
construct in front

sex: six

quae pars...hunc omnem locum: *this whole location—that is, the part of the hill which...;* the *quae pars* expands on the *hunc omnem locum*

complēverant: Verc.'s forces have established a loose camp outside of and at the base of the town's walls, completely filling up all the level space

fossam...māceriam: The Gauls have installed a ditch and a modest wall as fortifications, similar to that which would be constructed on all four sides of a Roman *castra*. Caes. uses *māceria* only in reference to this wall in *BG*, and perhaps chooses the term here to avoid confusion with the much larger *mūrus* of the town

sex...pedum: *of six feet;* gen. of characteristic, dependent on *māceriam*

mūnītiōnis: within this short page, Caes. confusingly jumps from the town's *mūrus* to the Gallic *māceria* in front of their encampment and now to the double-line of Roman *mūnitiōnēs* which encircle the whole region of the town and the Gallic camp

XI mīlia passuum: *11 miles;* lit. "11 thousands (of) paces"; the *mīlia* is the direct object of *tenēbat*

7 Castra opportūnīs locīs erant posita ibique castella vīgintī tria facta, quibus in castellīs interdiū statiōnēs pōnēbantur, nē qua subitō ēruptiō fieret: haec eadem noctū excubitōribus ac firmīs praesidiīs tenēbantur.

castellum, -ī n.: (here) fortified spot; redoubt

ēruptiō, -iōnis f.: a bursting forth; a sally, outward attack

excubitor, -ōris m.: watchman, sentinel

fīrmus, -a, -um: strong, steadfast

interdiū: during the day, in daytime, by day

noctū: in the night, at night, by night

opportūnus, -a, -um: fit, meet, adapted, convenient, suitable

statiō, -iōnis f.: guard, sentry

subitō: suddenly, immediately, unexpectedly

Castra: the main Roman camp was likely located on the slopes of Mont Flavigny, looking north towards Alesia across the valley of the river Ozerain

opportūnīs locīs: *at suitable places*; abl. of place where, which regularly lacks a preposition when the word *locus* is modified by an adjective

castella: these were spaced along the enormous 11-mile circumference of the siege fortifications, and were constructed with techniques similar to a typical Roman *castra*, only smaller; archaeological evidence of at least a dozen *castella* have been located at the site to date

haec eadem: *castella*

[70] *The Romans force the Gauls back in a cavalry battle*

1 Opere īnstitūtō fit equestre proelium in eā plānitiē quam intermissam collibus tria mīlia passuum in longitūdinem patēre suprā dēmōnstrāvimus. Summā vī ab utrīsque contenditur. 2 Labōrantibus nostrīs Caesar Germānōs summittit legiōnēsque prō castrīs cōnstituit, nē quā subitō irruptiō ab hostium peditātū fiat.

cōnsistō, -ere, -stitī, -stitus: stand
still/firm; halt, stop

equester, -tris, -tre: of a
horseman, equestrian

intermittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missus:
(here) not occupied by, free from

irruptiō, -iōnis f.: breaking in,
invasion, incursion

longitūdō, -inis f.: length

opus, operis n.: work; (here)
fortification

peditātus, -ūs m.: foot-soldiers,
infantry

plānitiēs, -eī f.: a flat surface, level
ground, plain

subitō: suddenly, immediately,
unexpectedly

sumittō, -mittere, -mīsī,
-missus: send in support of

suprā: above

uter-, utra-, utrumque: each, both

fit. . . proelium: *a battle occurs*; historic present

plānitiē: the modern plain of Laumes, to the west of the *oppidum* between the streams now called the Oze and Brenne

intermissam collibus: *not occupied by hills*

tria mīlia passuum: *for 3 miles*; lit. “for three thousands (of) paces”; acc. of extent of space

contenditur: *there is fighting*, lit. *it is struggled for*; impersonal passive

nē (ali)quā: negative purpose clause

3 Praesidiō legiōnum additō nostrīs animus augētur; hostēs in fugam coniectī sē ipsī multitūdine impediunt atque angustiōribus portīs relictīs coacervantur. 4 Germānī ācrius ūsque ad mūnitiōnēs sequuntur. 5 Fit magna caedēs: nōnnūllī relictīs equīs fossam trānsīre et māceriam trāscendere cōnantur. Paulum legiōnēs Caesar quās prō vāllō cōstituerat prōmovērī iubet.

addō, -ere, -didī, -ditus: add to

angustus, -a, -um: narrow,
straight

augeō, -ēre, auxī, auctus: increase

coacervō (1): heap up

cōniciō, -ere, -iēcī, -iectus: thrust
into, drive, hurl

cōnor, cōnārī, cōnātus: attempt

fossa, -ae f.: ditch, trench

fuga, -ae f.: flight, retreat

impediō, -īre, -īvī, -ītus: hinder

māceria, -ae f.: low wall

nōnnūllus, -a, -um: some, several

paulum: slightly, a little, somewhat

porta, portae f.: city gate, gate

prōmoveō, -ēre, -mōvī, -mōtus:

move forward, cause to advance

trāscendō, -ere, -ī, -scēsus:

climb over, pass over, cross

trānseō, -īre, -īī, -ītus: go across

ūsque: all the way to, continuously

vallus, -ī m.: rampart, palisade

nostrīs: *for our (men);* dat. of advantage

animus: *courage*

in fugam coniectī: *thrown into flight;* modifying the *hostēs*

sē ipsī multitūdine impediunt: the emphatic *ipsī* highlights that “they themselves (*ipsī*) hinder (*impediunt*) themselves (*sē*) with their multitude (*multitūdine*)”

angustiōribus portīs relictīs: *with (only) the more narrow gates left (open)*

ācrius: *very fiercely;* comp. adv.

relictīs equīs: *with their horses abandoned;* abl. abs.

6 Nōn minus quī intrā mūnitiōnēs erant perturbantur Gallī: venīrī ad sē cōnfestim exīstimantēs ad arma conclāmant; nōnnūllī perterritī in oppidum irrumpunt. 7 Vercingetorīx iubet portās claudī, nē castra nūdentur. Multīs interfectīs, complūribus equīs captīs Germānī sēsē recipiunt.

claudō, -ere, clausī, clausus: shut, close, shut up

complūrēs, -plūrium: quite a few, many

conclāmō (1): cry out together, shout, make acclaim

cōnfestim: immediately

exīstimō (1): value, estimate, reckon

intrā: on the inside, within

irrumpō, -ere, -rūpī, -ruptus: break in, press in, force a way in, burst into

nōnnūllus, -a, -um: some, several

nūdō (1): (here) expose; strip

perterreō, -ēre, -uī. -itus: frighten, terrify thoroughly

perturbō (1): disturb; confuse, throw into disorder

porta, portae f.: city gate, gate

recipiō, -ere, -cēpī, -ceptus: (with *sē*) return

quī intrā mūnitiōnēs erant: the antecedent of this rel. clause is the *Gallī venīrī...exīstimantēs*: *thinking that [the German cavalry] had arrived*; lit. *thinking there had been an arrival*; the infinitive is an impersonal passive in an indirect statement dependent on the nominative participle

nē castra nūdentur: purpose clause; Verc. fears that if his entire army forces their way inside Alesia in a panic, there will be none left to defend the extramural encampment

[71] *Vercingetorix prepares his men for war*

1 Vercingetorīx, priusquam mūnītiōnēs ab Rōmānīs perficiantur, cōnsilium capit omnem ab sē equitātum noctū dīmittere. 2 Discēdentibus mandat ut suam quisque eōrum cīvītātem adeat omnēsque quī per aetātem arma ferre possint ad bellum cōgant.

adeō, adīre, adīvī/adī, aditus: go

to, approach; address, consult

aetās, -tātis f.: age

dīmittō, -ere, -mīsī, -mīssus: send

different ways, send out, send forth, scatter

discēdō, -ere, dicessī, discessus:

depart

mandō (1): deliver; order

noctū: in the night, at night, by night

perficiō, perficere, perfēcī,

perfectus: achieve, execute, carry out, accomplish

priusquam: before (conj.)

priusquam...perficiantur: *before...might be completed*; the subjunctive with *priusquam* indicates an anticipated or incomplete action

cōnsilium capit: *makes a plan*; a standard idiom

Discēdentibus: take with an implicit *equitibus*

ut suam quisque eōrum cīvītātem adeat: *that each [cavalryman] go to his own city*; indirect command after *mandat*, which continues with *omnēsque...cōgant*

quī...possint: rel. clause of characteristic

per aetātem: *on account of (their) age*

cōgant: a singular verb in parallel with *adeat* is expected; the subject is perhaps “the cavalrymen” as a group

3 Sua in illōs merita prōpōnit obtestāturque ut suae salūtis
ratiōnem habeant neu sē optimē dē commūnī libertāte
meritum in cruciātum hostibus dēdant. Quod sī
indīligentiōrēs fuerint, mīlia hominum dēlēcta octōgintā ūnā
sēcum interitūra dēmōnstrat.

cruciātus, -ūs m.: torture, torment

dēdō, -ere, -idī, -itus: give,
surrender

dēligō, -ere, -lēgī, -lēctus:
choose, designate; (here) drafted

indīligēns, -entis: careless,
negligent

intereō, -īre, -īī, -itus: die, be lost

mereor, merērī, meritus: deserve,
be worthy of (+ abl.)

meritum, meritī n.: service

neu/nēve: or not, nor, and not

obtestor, -ārī, -ātus: call as witness

octōgintā: eighty

prōpōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positus:
put forth

ūnā: at once, all together

Sua in illōs merita: *his services on their behalf*

ut...habeant: indirect command set up by *obtestātur*

suae salūtis ratiōnem habeant: *that [the Gauls whom the horsemen are visiting]
have consideration for his (Verc.'s) safety*

neu...dēdant: *and that they not hand him (sē) over to the enemy (Romans) for
torture; the neu here coordinates this negative indirect command with the
previous positive one (ut...habeant)*

sē...dē commūnī libertāte meritum: *him (Verc.) having deserved well of them
regarding their common liberty; the meritum here is a participle agreeing with sē*

Quod sī: *but if*

sī fuerint...dēmōnstrat: future more vivid conditional

sēcum: *cum + sē*

interitūra: with implied *esse* in indirect statement after *dēmōnstrat*; neuter plural
because the acc. subject is *mīlia*

4 Ratiōne initā sē exiguē diērum trīgintā habēre frūmentum, sed paulō etiam longius tolerārī posse parcendō. Hīs datīs mandātīs, 5 quā nostrum opus erat intermissum, secundā vigiliā silentiō equitātum mittit.

exiguus, -a, -um: small;

inadequate

frūmentum, -ī n.: grain

ineō, -īre, -iī/īvī, -itus: go into

intermittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missus:

intermit, omit, suspend, neglect

mandō (1): deliver; order

opus, operis n.: work; (here)

fortification

parcō, -ere, pepercī, parsus: spare

paulō: a little, somewhat

quā: where (rel. adv.)

secundus, -a, -um: following, next, second

silentium, -iī n.: stillness, silence

tolerō (1): sustain, maintain, endure

trīgintā: thirty

vigilia, vigiliae f.: a watching,

vigil

Ratiōne initā: *with a calculation having been undertaken (by Verc.);* abl. abs.

habēre...posse: extended indirect speech with *dēmōnstrat*; the subj. is *sē (Verc.)*

longius: comp. adv.

parcendō: *by rationing or by being sparing (in consumption);* abl. gerund

quā...erat intermissum: *where our fortification had been neglected*

secundā vigiliā: *at the second watch;* abl. of time when; between 9pm and midnight

silentiō: *in silence;* abl. of means

6 Frūmentum omne ad sē referri iubet; capitis poenam eīs quī nōn pāruerint cōstituit: 7 pecus, cuius magna erat cōpia ab Mandūbiīs compulsa, virītim distribuit; frūmentum parcē et paulātim mētīrī īnstituit; 8 cōpiās omnēs quās prō oppidō collocāverat in oppidum recēpit. 9 Hīs ratiōnibus auxilia Galliae exspectāre et bellum parat administrāre.

collocō (1): arrange, lay place
compellō, -pellere, -pulī, -pulsus:
drive together; compel, force
frūmentum, -ī n.: grain
mētior, -īrī, mensus: measure
parcē: sparingly, stingily
pāreō, -ēre, -uī, paritus: obey
paulātim: gradually, little by little

pecus, pecoris n.: cattle
poena, -ae f.: punishment; (with
capitis) death penalty
referō, -ferre, -tulī/tullī, -lātus:
bring back, report, refer
virītim: man by man, to each one
separately

capitis poenam: *capital punishment*; the acc. is the direct object of *cōstituit*
eīs quī nōn pāruerint: dat. of reference and rel. clause with a future perfect verb
ab Mandūbiīs compulsa: The Mandubii tribe, to whom the town of Alesia belonged, was relatively small. We can assume that all of their food, either stored or on the hoof, was seized here
virītim: appears only here in the writings of Caes.
cōpiās omnēs quās prō oppidō collocāverat: *all the troops*; *quās* refers to *cōpiās*
auxilia Galliae exspectāre: Verc. correctly predicts that a larger force of Gauls will come together and arrive to help the 80,000 besieged

[72] *Caesar explains how the fortifications were constructed*

1 Quibus rēbus cognitīs ex perfugīs et captīvīs, Caesar haec genera mūnitiōnis īnstituit. Fossam pedum vīgintī dīrēctīs lateribus dūxit, ut eius fossae solum tantundem pateret quantum summae fossae labra distārent.

captīvus, -ī m.: captive

dīrēctus, -a, -um: straight

distō (1): stand apart, extend

dūcō, dūcere, dūxī, ductus: lead, conduct, draw

fossa, -ae f.: ditch, trench

genus, generis n.: kind, type

labrum, -ī n.: lip, edge

latus, -eris n.: side

perfuga, -ae m.: deserter

quantum: as much as, to the same extent as

solum, -ī n.: ground, bottom

tantundem: just so much, just as much

Fossam pedum vīgintī: *a trench of twenty feet; that is, twenty feet wide; gen. of characteristic*

dīrēctīs lateribus: *with straight sides; that is, each side is vertical; abl. of characteristic*

ut...tantundem pateret quantum...distarent: *so that...lay open as much as...were distant; correlative construction; he is explaining that the trench is rectangular, not trapezoidal, making it harder to enter and exit*

2 Reliquās omnēs mūnitiōnēs ab eā fossā pedēs quadringentōs redūxit hōc cōnsiliō, quoniam tantum esset necessāriō spatium complexūs nec facile tōtum corpus corōnā mīlitum cingerētur, nē dē imprōvīsō aut noctū ad mūnitiōnēs hostium multitudō advolāret aut interdiū tēla in nostrōs operī dēstinātōs conicere possent.

advolō (1): fly, fly towards

cingō, -ere, cīnxī, cīnctus:

surround, encompass, encircle

complexus, -ūs m.: encirclement

coniciō, -icere, -iēcī, -iectus:

throw

corōna, -ae: crown; (here) ring

dēstinō (1): bind, make firm, fix

facile: easily

imprōvīsus, -a, -um: unforeseen, unexpected

interdiū: during the day, in daytime

necessāriō: necessarily

noctū: in the night, at night

opus, operis n.: work; (here) fortification

quadringentī, -ae, -a: four hundred

quoniam: since, because

tantus, -a, -um: so great; such

redūcō, -ere, redūxī, reductus:

lead back, withdraw

reliquus, -a, -um: remaining

tēlum, -ī n.: missile weapon, dart, spear, javelin

pedēs quadringentōs: *four hundred feet*; acc. of extent of space

hōc cōnsiliō: (*he did*) *it with this plan*

tantum esset...spatium complexūs: *so great was...the space of encirclement*

dē imprōvīsō: *unexpectedly*; idiom

3 Hoc intermissō spatiō duās fossās quīndecim pedēs lātās eādem altitūdine perdūxit, quārum interiōrem campestribus ac dēmissīs locīs aquā ex flūmine dērīvātā complēvit. 4 Post eās aggerem ac vallum duodecim pedum exstrūxit.

agger, aggeris m.: mound

altitūdō, -inis f.: height; depth

campester, campestris: flat, level

compleō, -ēre, -ēvī, -ētus: fill up,
fill out

dēmissus, -a, -um: low-lying

dērīvō (1): lead off, turn away

duodecim: twelve

exstruō, -ere, -strūxī, -strūctus:
pile, heap up; accumulate

flūmen, flūminis n.: river

interior, -ius: interior, inner,
middle

lātus, -a, -um: wide

perducō, -ere, -dūxī, -ductus: lead
through

quīndecim: fifteen

vallum, -ī n.: a line of palisades,
palisaded rampart

duās fossās quīndecim pedēs lātās: *two trenches fifteen feet wide*; acc. of extent of space

eādem altitūdine: *with the same depth*; abl. of characteristic

duodecim pedum: *of twelve feet*; that is, twelve feet high; gen. of characteristic

5 Huic lōricam pinnāsque adiēcit grandibus cervīs
ēminentibus ad commissūrās pluteōrum atque aggeris, quī
ascēsum hostium tardārent, et turrēs tōtō opere
circumdedit, quae pedēs LXXX inter sē distārent.

adiō, -ere, -iēcī, -iectus: add on
ascēsus, -ūs m.: a climbing,
ascent
cervus, -ī m.: stag, deer; (here)
forked stake
circumdō, -are, -dedī, -datus:
place around, cause to surround;
encompass, encircle
commisūra, -ae f.: a joining; joint,
seam

distō (1): stand apart, be separate
ēmineō, -ēre, -uī: stand out,
project, reach upward
lōrica, -ae f.: (here) parapet
opus, operis n.: (here) fortification
pinna, -ae f.: wing; promontory
pluteus, -ī m.: parapet, wall; shed
tardō (1): hinder, impede
turris, -is f.: tower, turret

cervīs: *cervus* is usually “stag” or “deer” more generally. This is a unique usage of this word to denote a forked stake, much like the antlers of a stag

quī ascēsum hostium tardārent: *which would impede the ascent of the enemy;* rel. clause of characteristic

tōtō opere: *along the whole fortification;* the word *tōtus* regularly appears without a preposition in the abl. of place where

pedēs LXXX: *80 feet;* acc. of extent of space

quae...distārent: *which would be...distant;* rel. clause of characteristic

[73] *Caesar continues his description of the fortifications*

1 Erat eōdem tempore et māteriārī et frūmentārī et tantās mūnitiōnēs fierī necesse dēminūtīs nostrīs cōpiīs quae longius ab castrīs prōgrediēbantur: ac nōn numquam opera nostra Gallī temptāre atque ēruptiōnem ex oppidō plūribus portīs summā vī facere cōnābantur.

dēminuō, -ere, -uī, -ūtus: make

smaller, lessen, diminish

frūmentor, -ārī, -ātus: harvest

grain

māterior, -ārī, -ātus: procure

wood

necesse: necessary

opus, operis n.: (here) fortification

plūs, plūris: more, many

porta, -ae f.: city gate, gate

prōgredior, -ī, prōgressus: go

forward, advance

temptō (1): try, attempt; touch;

attack, assail

Erat eōdem tempore... **necesse:** *it was necessary at the same time*; sets up the three infinitives: *māteriārī, frūmentārī, and fierī* (with a sense of “to be made”)

dēminūtīs nostrīs cōpiīs: *with our troops reduced*

longius: comp. adv.

nōn numquam: *not never, that is, sometimes*

ēruptiōnem... **facere:** *to make an outward attack*; lit. “to make a bursting forth”

vī: abl. of *vīs, vīs f.* “violence,” “force”

2 Quārē ad haec rūrsus opera addendum Caesar putāvit, quō minōrē numerō mīlitum mūnitiōnēs dēfendī possent. Itaque truncīs arborum aut admodum firmīs rāmīs abscīsīs atque hōrum dēlībrātīs ac praeacūtīs cacūminibus perpetuae fossae quīnōs pedēs altae dūcēbantur.

abscīdō, -ere, -cīdī, -cīsus: cut off
addō, -ere, -idī, -itus: add
admodum: very, especially
altus, -a, -um: tall, high, deep
arbor, -oris f.: tree
cacūmen, -inis n.: peak, top; point
dēfendō, -ere, -ī, dēfensus: ward off, repel
dēlībrō, -āre, —, -ātus: strip off (rind or bark), peel

dūcō, -ere, dūxī, ductus: lead, conduct, draw
firmus, -a, -um: strong
praeacuō, -ere, (no perf.), -ūtus: sharpen
putō (1): think
quārē: for which reason
quīnī, -ae, -a: five each
rāmus, -ī m.: branch
rūrsus: again; in return
truncus, -ī m.: trunk

addendum: *there must be an addition*; lit. “(it was) to be added”; gerundive
quō...possent: *in order that...might be able*; rel. clause of purpose
fossae quīnōs pedēs altae: *trenches five feet deep each*; the *quīnōs pedēs* is an acc. of extent of space

3 Hūc illī stīpitēs dēmissī et ab īnfimō revīnctī, nē revellī
possent, ab rāmīs ēminēbant. 4 Quīnī erant ōrdinēs coniūnctī
inter sē atque implicātī; quō quī intrāverant, sē ipsī
acūtissimīs vāllīs induēbant.

acūtus, -a, -um: sharpened,
pointed

coniungō, -ere, -xī, -ctus:
connect, join, fasten together

dēmittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missus:
send down, let down, drop

ēmineō, -ēre, -uī: stand out,
project, reach upward

implicō (1): entangle, entwine,
encircle

induō, -ere, -ī, -tus: put on;
entangle, impale

īnfimum, -ī n.: bottom

intrō (1): go into, enter

ōrdō, -inis m.: row, line, series

quīnī, -ae, -a: five each

rāmus, -ī m.: branch, bough, twig

revellō, -ere, -vellī, -vulsus: pull
away, tear out

revinciō, -īre, -vīnxī, -vīnctus:
bind back, tie back

stīpes, -itis m.: log, stick, post

vāllus, -ī m.: stake, pointed object

Hūc: *Into here*; referring to the five-foot deep ditches

nē revellī possent: purpose clause

quō: *by which (thing)*; the rel. pronoun refers back to the whole previous clause

sē ipsī...induēbant: *they would impale...themselves*

5 Hōs cippōs appellābant. Ante quōs oblīquīs ōrdinibus in quincuncem dispositīs scrobēs trēs in altitudinem pedēs fodiēbantur paulātim angustiore ad infimum fastigiō.

altitudō, -inis f.: height; depth

angustus, -a, -um: narrow, straight

cippus, -ī m.: stake; grave marker

fastigium, -iī n.: top, height; bottom, lower part; depth; (here) size

fodiō, fodere, fōdi, fossus: dig, dig up

infimum, -ī n.: bottom

oblīquus, -a, -um: slanting, oblique; awry

ōrdō, -inis m.: row, line, series

paulātim: little by little, gradually

quīncūnx, -ūncis m.: quincunx, the figure formed by the four corners of a square and its middle point

scrobis, -is m./f.: ditch, trench

trēs, tria: three

Hōs cippōs appellābant: *they called these “gravestones”*

cippōs: *cippi* were initially used as grave markers by the Etruscans, then more generally for the Romans, where they could be funerary or even simple boundary markers

quīncuncem: a quincunx is the shape formed by the four corners of a square and a fifth point in its center, like the “five” on a standard six-sided die. This shape is most commonly used for planting trees and in military operations. It is derived from the Roman coin of the same name, featuring a square cross, issued between 211-200 BCE, whose value was five twelfths of an *as* (*quinque* [five] + *uncia* [one twelfth])

trēs...pedēs: acc. of extent of space

angustiore ad infimum fastigiō: *with a size more narrow towards the bottom*

6 Hūc teretēs stīpitēs feminis crassitūdine ab summō praeacūtī et praeustī dēmittēbantur, ita ut nōn amplius digitīs quattuor ex terrā ēminērent;

amplus, -a, -um.: of large extent,
great, ample

crassitūdō, -inis f.: thickness,
density

dēmittō, -ere, dēmīsī, dēmīssus:
send down, let down, drop

digitus, digitī m.: finger

ēmineō, -ēre, -uī: stand out,
project, reach upward

femur, -oris n. (femen, -inis n.):
femur, thigh

praeacuō, -ere, -cūtus: sharpen

praeūrō, -ere, -ussī -ūstus: burn
at the end, scorch

stīpes, -itis m.: log, stick, post

teres, -etis: rounded, smooth

feminis crassitūdine: *with the thickness of a thigh; abl. of characteristic*

ab summō: *from the top; take with praeacūtī and praeustī*

ita ut nōn...ēminērent: *in such a way that they not...stick out; result clause*

nōn amplius digitīs quattuor: *not more than four fingers; comp. adv. and abl. of comparison*

7 simul cōfirmandī et stabiliendī causā singulī ab īnfimō solō pedēs terrā exculcābantur, reliqua pars scrobis ad occultandās īnsidiās vīminibus ac virgultīs integēbātur. 8 Huius generis octōnī ōrdinēs ductī ternōs inter sē pedēs distābant.

distō (1): stand apart, be separate
exculcō, -āre: tread down, stamp down

genus, -eris n.: kind, sort

īnfimus, -a, -um: bottom

īnsidiae, īnsidiārum f. pl.: trap

integō, -ere, -tēxī, -tēctus: cover over

occultō (1): hide, conceal; cover up

octōnī, -ae, -a: eight each, eight at a time, by eights

ōrdō, -inis m.: row, line, series

scrobis, -is m/f.: ditch, trench

simul: at the same time, at once, simultaneously

singulī, -ae, -a: one at a time, single, individual

solum, -ī n.: ground, bottom

stabiliō, -īre, -īvī, -ītus: make firm, support

ternī, -ae, -a: three each, three at a time, by threes

vīmen, -inis n.: pliant twig

virgultum, -ī n.: bush, shrubbery

causā: *for the sake of* + gerund

singulī...pedēs terrā exculcābantur: *in each case a foot (from the bottom) was trodden down with earth;* in other words, they compressed the dirt surrounding the bases of the stakes (*stīpītēs*) by stomping it down in the bottom of the pits (*scrobēs*); *pedēs* here means a foot of measurement

ductī: *having been led;* that is, have been dug; the verb *ducere* can have a sense of lengthening a line

9 Id ex similitūdine flōris līlium appellābant. Ante haec tāleae pedem longae ferreīs hāmīs īnfixīs tōtae in terram īnfodiēbantur mediocribusque intermissīs spatīis omnibus locīs disserēbantur, quōs stimulōs nōminābant.

disserō, –serere, –sēvī, –situs:

(here) scatter, distribute;

(elsewhere) scatter seed

ferreus, –a, –um: iron, made of iron

flōs, flōris m.: flower

hāmus, –ī m.: hook

īnfigō, –ere, –fixī, –fixus: fasten, implant

īnfodiō, –ere, –fōdī, –fossus: bury

līlium, –īī n.: a lily

nōminō (1): call by name, name, give a name to

similitūdō, similitūdinis f.:

likeness, resemblance, similitude

stimulus, –ī m.: (here) spur

tālea, –ae f.: slender staff, rod, stake

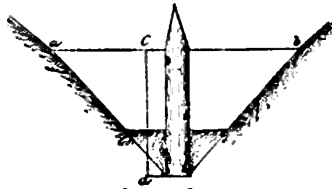
pedem longae: a foot long; the *longae* agrees with *tāleae* and the *pedem* is an acc. of extent of space

ferreīs hāmīs īnfixīs: with iron hooks fastened

tōtae...īnfodiēbantur: the rods were completely buried, but the iron hooks would be sticking out of the ground

mediocribusque intermissīs spatīis: and with modest spans in between; abl. abs.

omnibus locīs: in all places; the word *locus* regularly lacks a preposition when modified by an adjective



līlium

[74] *The legions construct a second ring of fortifications*

1 Hīs rēbus perfectīs, regiōnēs secūtus (quam potuit aequissimās prō locī nātūrā), quattuordecim mīlia passuum complexus parēs eiusdem generis mūnitiōnēs dīversās ab hīs contrā exteriōrem hostem perfēcit, ut nē magnā quidem multitūdine, sī ita accidat, mūnitiōnum praesidia circumfundī possent; 2 ac nē cum periculō ex castrīs ēgredi cōgātur, diērum trīgintā pābulum frūmentumque habēre omnēs convectum iubet.

aequus, -a, -um: level, flat

cōgō, -ere, -ēgī, -āctum: compel

complector, -ī, -plexus: enclose, surround

convehō, -vehere, -vēcī, -vectus:
(here) store, stockpile

circumfundō, -ere, -fūdī, -fūsus:
pour around

dīversus, -a, -um: opposite, separate from

exterior, -ius: outward, outer

genus, -eris n.: kind, sort

pābulum, -ī n.: food for animals

pār, parīs: equal

perficiō, -ere, -fēcī, -fectus:
achieve, execute, accomplish

nātūra, nātūrae f.: nature, natural constitution, quality

quattuordecim: fourteen

regiō, -iōnis, f.: area

trīgintā: thirty

quam potuit aequissimās: *as level as he could*

secūtus...complexus: nom. masc. PPPs modifying an understood *Caes.*

quattuordecim mīlia passuum: *fourteen thousand paces*; that is, 14 miles

dīversās ab hīs: *separate from these [first fortifications]*

nē...quidem: *not...even*

omnēs: supply *militēs*; acc. subject of *habēre*

[75] *Elsewhere the Gauls muster their forces*

1 Dum haec apud Alesiam geruntur, Gallī conciliō p̄ncipum indictō nōn omnēs eōs quī arma ferre possent, ut cēnsuit Vercingetorīx, convocandōs statuunt, sed certum numerum cuique ex cīvitāte imperandum, nē tantā multitudīne cōnfūsā nec moderārī nec discernere suōs nec frūmentandī ratiōnem habēre possent.

cēnsēō, -ēre, -uī, **census**: judge, propose

concilium, -iī n.: meeting

cōnfundō, -dere, -fūdī, -fūsus:

pour together, mingle mix

convocō (1): call together,, assemble

discernō, -ere, -crēvī, -crētus: separate, set apart, bound

dum: while

frūmentor, -ārī, -ātus: forage, provide supplies

indīcō, -ere, -dīxī, -dictus: declare

moderor, -ārī, **moderātus**: set a measure, set bounds, moderate

p̄ncipis m.: chief, leader

statuō, -ere, -uī **statūtus**: set up, establish, decide

conciliō p̄ncipum indictō: *with an assembly of the leaders having been called*; abl. abs.

ut: *as*; paired with indicative *cēnsuit*

certum numerum...imperandum: *a certain number should be demanded*; supply *esse* to complete a passive periphrastic infinitive in indirect statement after *statuunt*

cuique ex cīvitāte: *to each one from their state*; the dat. *cuique* goes with *imperandum*

nē...possent...nec...nec...nec: *lest [the Gallic leaders] be able neither...nor...nor*
frūmentandī ratiōnem: *a method of procuring food*; gerund

2 Imperant Aeduīs atque eōrum clientibus (Segūsiāvīs, Ambivarētīs, Aulercīs Brannovicibus, Blannoviīs) mīlia XXXV; parem numerum Arvernīs, adiūctīs Eleutētīs, Cadurcīs, Gabalīs, Vellaviīs, quī sub imperiō Arvernōrum esse cōnsuērunt; 3 Sēquanīs, Sēnōnibus, Biturigibus, Santonīs, Rutēnīs, Carnūtibus duodēna mīlia; Bellovacīs decem; totidem Lemovīcibus; octōna Pictonibus et Turonīs et Parīsīis et Helvētiīs; Suessionibus, Ambiānīs, Mediomatricīs, Petrocoriīs, Nervīis, Morinīs, Nitiobrīgibus quīna mīlia;

adiungō, -ere, -nxī, adiūctus:

fasten on, join

cliēns, clientis m.: client

cōnsuō, -ere, -ī, -sūtus: sew,
stitch together

duodēnī, -ae, -a: twelve each

octōnī, -ae, -a: eight each

quīnī, -ae, -a: five each

totidem: just as many, the same
number of

Imperant: This verb governs a long series of objects in the dat. (expressing whom Caes. commands) and the acc. (the number of soldiers, in thousands, he commands from each). This section mimics the great catalogues of epic poetry (for which, see Krebs 2023, p.303 n.75) and several of these names are otherwise completely unknown. The text is problematic and here we follow the list as Krebs prints it

clientibus: relatively unknown smaller tribes under the hegemony of the Aedui; the Segusiavi dwelled south of Aeduan land, near the border of the Province; the Aulerci as a whole lived in Normandy, between the Loire and the Seine

adiūctīs: these tribes were the *clientēs* of the Arverni

decem...octōna: supply *mīlia*

Aulercīs Cenomānīs totidem; Atrebatibus IIII; Veliocassīs,
Lexovīs et Aulercīs Eburovicibus terna; Rauracīs et Boiīs
4 XXX mīlia ūniversīs cīvitātibus quae Ōceanum attingunt
quaeque eōrum cōnsuētūdine Armoricae appellantur, quō
sunt in numerō Coriosolītēs, Rēdonēs, Ambibāriī, Calētēs,
Osismī, Venetī, Lemovīcēs, Venellī.

attingō, -tingere, -tigī, -tāctus:

touch, come in contact with

cōnsuētūdō, cōnsuētūdinis f.:

custom, habit, way, practice

ōceanus, -ī m.: ocean

ternī, -ae, -a: three each

totidem: just as many, the same
number of

ūniversus, -a, -um: all together;
collective, entire

XXX: the text is corrupted here: *terna* and *III* are the same, and the appearance of the Rauraci and Boii before the number and *ūniversīs cīvitātibus* after is messy; no satisfactory solution has been universally accepted, and we follow Krebs 2023
ūniversīs cīvitātibus quae Ōceanum attingunt: *for all the tribes which bordered the ocean*

quaeque: *and who*; rel. pronoun + enclitic *-que*

quō sunt in numerō...: *in whose number there are*

Lemovīcēs: they are listed twice in this list; either one group is a smaller offshoot of the larger group in a different place, or Caes. has included them twice inadvertently

5 Ex hīs Bellovacī suum numerum nōn complēvērunt, quod sē suō nōmine atque arbitriō cum Rōmānīs bellum gestūrōs dīcēbant neque cuiusquam imperiō obtemperātūrōs; rogātī tamen ab Commiō prō eius hospitiō duo mīlia ūnā mīsērunt.

arbitrium, -ī n.: judgement,
decision

compleō, -ēre, -ēvī, -ētus: fill up,
fill out

hospitium, -ī n.: guest friendship
obtemperō (1): obey (+ dat.)

rogō (1): ask, question, interrogate
ūnā: (here) at once

quod: *because*

sē... bellum gestūrōs (esse)... neque ... obtemperātūrōs (esse): *that they would wage war...and not obey; future infinitives in an indirect statement*

nōmine atque arbitriō: *according to their own reputation and their own decision; in other words, they would prefer to fight against the Romans (cum Rōmānīs) in their own way and not be subject to a pan-Gallic council or a pan-Gallic chieftain*

cuiusquam: *of anyone*

prō eius hospitiō: *in return for his guest-friendship*

Commiō: a Gallic nobleman who had been an agent of Caes. in the past, but has since joined the cause of Verc. (see *BG* 7.76 below); here he wields a personal connection with the Bellovaci to obtain a small concessory force

[76] *Commius's service in Britain; the Gauls depart from Alesia*

1 Huius operā Commī, ut antea dēmōnstrāvimus, fidēlī atque ūtilī superiōribus annīs erat ūsus in Britannīā Caesar; quibus ille prō meritīs cīvitatē eius immūnem esse iusserat, iūra lēgēsque reddiderat atque ipsī Morinōs attribuerat.

anteā: before, earlier

attribuō, -ere, -uī, -ūtus: assign;
give over

fidēlis, fidēle: trustworthy, faithful,
sincere

immūnis, -e: not bound, free from
obligation, independent

iūs, iūris n.: right, justice;
authority, law

meritum, meritī n.: (here) service
opera, operae f.: service, work,
labor

reddō, -ere, -didī, -itus: return,
restore; reply

ūsus, -ūs m.: use, utility; benefit

ūtor, ūtī, ūsus: (here) make use of
(+ abl.)

ūtilis, ūtile: useful, beneficial

Huius...Commī: gen. dependent on *operā*, which is the object of *erat ūsus*

ut antea dēmōnstrāvimus: *as we have mentioned previously* (see BG 4.27.7, e.g.,
and Appendix A)

fidēlī atque ūtilī: agreeing with *operā*

superiōribus annīs: *in previous years*; abl. of time when

immūnem: Caes. has declared the region(s) controlled by Commius to be
exempt from Roman demands (tax, cavalry conscription, grain requisition, etc);
this seems to have applied to the Atrebatēs and the Morini

ipsī Morinōs attribuerat: *he [Caes.] had subordinated the Morini to (Commius)
himself*; this was both a reward for Commius, and a punishment for the Morini

2 Tamen tanta ūniversae Galliae cōnsēnsiō fuit libertātis vindicandae et prīstinae bellī laudis recuperandae ut neque beneficiis neque amīctiae memoriā movērentur, omnēsque et animō et opibus in id bellum incumberent. 3 Coāctīs equitum VIII mīlibus et peditum circiter CCL, haec in Aeduōrum finibus recēnsēbantur, numerusque inībātur, praefectī cōstituēbantur.

amīctia, amīctiae f.: friendship

beneficium, -ī n.: favor, benefit, service

cōnsēnsiō, -iōnis f.: agreement, unanimity, consensus

cōstituō, -uere, -uī, -ūtus: set, station, place

finis, finis m.: boundary, limit

incumbō, -ere, -cubūī, -cubitus: (here) rush toward, apply oneself to

ineō, -īre, -īī, -itus: (here) reckon

laus, laudis f.: praise, glory, fame

praefectus, praefectī m.: commander; manager

prīstinus, -a, -um: former, original

recēnsēō, -ēre, -uī, -situs: (here) survey, assess

recuperō (1): regain; restore

ūniversus, -a, -um: all together; collective, entire

vindicō (1): demand, assert a claim to

cōnsēnsiō: this noun takes two gerundive phrases as objective genitives: *libertātis vindicandae* and *prīstinae bellī laudis recuperandae*

ut: result clause with *movērentur* and *incumberent*

incumberent: the verb has a great variety of meanings, but here seems to indicate that the various tribes were (in modern terminology) *applying themselves toward* (in) [*waqing*] *this war with spirit* (animō) *and resources* (opibus)

Coāctīs equitum VIII mīlibus...circiter CLL: *With eight thousand horsemen and nearly 250,000 infantry brought together; abl. abs.*

haec: *these [thousands of recruits]*

4 Commiō Atrebātī, Viridomarō et Eporodorigī Aeduīs, Vercassivellaūnō Arvernō, cōsobrīnō Vercingetorigīs, summa imperī trāditur. Hīs dēlēctī ex cīvitātibus attribuuntur, quōrum cōsiliō bellum administrārētur.

attribuō, -ere, -uī, -ūtus: assign
cōsobrīnus, -ī m.: a mother's
sister's son, first cousin

dēligō, -ere, -lēgī, -lēctus: (here)
draft, levy
summa, -ae f.: the supreme, whole

Viridomarō et Eporodorigī: young and influential *prīcipēs* among the Aedui whom Caes. had favored; see *BG* 7.39.1

Vercassivellaūnō: see Appendix A

cōsobrīnō: in apposition to *Vercassivellaūnō*

summa imperī: *supreme command*

Hīs: *to these (commanders)*, dat. after *attribuuntur*

dēlēctī: here as a substantive, *conscript*

quōrum: a rel. clause of purpose; *that the war might be managed according to their plan*

5 Omnēs alacrēs et fidūciae plēnī ad Alesiam proficiscuntur,
6 neque erat omnium quisquam quī aspectum modo tantae
multitūdinis sustinērī posse arbitrārētur, praesertim ancipitī
proeliō, cum ex oppidō ēruptiōne pugnārētur, forīs tantae
cōpiae equitātūs peditātūsque cernerentur.

alacer, -cris, -cre: eager, excited
anceps, ancipitis: two-headed
arbitror, -ārī, -ātus: testify; be of
the opinion
aspectus, -ūs m.: a view, sight
cernō, -ere, crēvī, crētus:
perceive, see

fidūcia, -ae f.: trust, confidence
forīs: out of doors; outside
modo: only, just
plēnus, -a, -um: full
praesertim: especially
quisquam, cuiusquam m.:
anybody

ad Alesiam: *towards the vicinity of Alesia*; the preposition *ad* is regularly omitted before city names when it simply means *to* but can be used with a sense of *towards the vicinity of*

neque erat omnium quisquam: *nor was there anyone of them all*

quī...arbitrarētur: rel. clause of characteristic

tantae multitūdinis: obj. gen. with *aspectum*; the multitude of Gauls on the outside

ancipitī proeliō: *by way of a two-pronged attack*; i.e., by way of a sally from the inside (*ēruptiōne*) and an attack by the relief force (*tantae cōpiae*) from the outside (*forīs*)

cum...pugnārētur...cernerentur: causal cum clause presenting the two scenarios of the *anceps proelium*

pugnārētur: *there was fighting*; impersonal passive

tantae cōpiae: *such great forces*; nom. pl. with the dependent genitives *equitātūs* and *peditātūs*

[77] *Critognatus gives his speech at the Gallic council in Alesia*

1 At eī quī Alesiae obsidēbantur, praeteritā diē quā auxilia suōrum exspectāverant, cōnsūptō omnī frūmentō, īnscīī quid in Aeduīs gererētur, conciliō coāctō, dē exitū suārum fortūnārum cōsultābant.

cogō, -ere, -ēgī, -actus: collect, bring together

cōsultō (1): take counsel, deliberate

cōnsūmō, -ere, -sumpsī, -sumptus: use up, consume

exitus, -ūs m.: a departure; end; outcome

īnscīus, -a, -um: not knowing

obsideō, -ēre, -sēdī, -sessus: (here) besiege

praetereō, -īre, -īvī/īī, -itus: go by; pass

Alesiae: at Alesia; locative

praeteritā...cōnsūptō...coāctō: all participles governing parallel abl. absolutes

auxilia suōrum: the Gauls on the outside, lead by those mentioned in BG 7.76.4

īnscīī quid...gererētur: indir. question with *īnscīī* (the nom. pl. subject of *obsidēbantur*)

in Aeduīs: Verc. and the besieged Gauls at Alesia have no way of knowing that a massive relief force is mustering in the territory of the Aedui

2 Ac variīs dictīs sententiīs, quārum pars dēditiōnem, pars, dum vīrēs suppeterent, ēruptiōnem cēnsēbat, nōn praetereunda ōrātiō Critognatī vidētur propter eius singulārem et nefāriam crūdēlitātem.

cēnsēō, -ēre, -uī, census: judge,

propose

crūdēlitās, -tātis f.: cruelty,

barbarity

dēditiō, -iōnis f.: a surrender

nefārius, -a, -um: abominable

ōrātiō, -iōnis f.: a speech

praetereō, -īre, -īvī/īī, -itus: go
by; pass

sententia, -ae f.: an opinion,
judgment

singulāris, -e: singular;

unparalleled

suppetō, -ere, -īvī/īī, -ītus: be
present, at hand, available

varius, -a, -um: different, various

dum vīrēs suppeterent: *as long as physical strength was available*; i.e., before starvation weakened them

ēruptiōnem: a sally from the *oppidum* that ends the siege completely or allows those inside to break free of the siege and escape

ōrātiō Critognatī: the longest speech in direct discourse in *BG*

nōn praetereunda: *not to be passed over*; future pass. participle with a sense of obligation; predicate adj. after *vidētur*, whose subj. is *ōrātiō*

crūdēlitātem: besides Critognatus, words with this root are used in *BG* to describe Ariovistus (*BG* 1.31.12, 1.32.4) and Litavicus (*BG* 7.38.9)

3 Hic summō in Arvernīs ortus locō et magnae habitus auctōritātis, “Nihil,” inquit, “dē eōrum sententiā dictūrus sum quī turpissimam servitūtem dēditiōnis nōmine appellat, neque hōs habendōs cīvium locō neque ad concilium adhibendōs cēnseō.

adhibeō, -ēre, -uī, -itus: hold toward; to bring to, invite

auctōritās, -tātis f.: persuasion; influence, authority

cēnseō, -ēre, -uī, census: judge, propose

dēditiō, -iōnis f.: a surrender

orior, orīrī, ortus: rise; be born

sententia, -ae f.: an opinion, judgment

summus, -a, -um: uppermost, highest, topmost

turpis, -e: ugly; shameful, dishonorable

summō...locō: abl. of source with *ortus*

magnae habitus auctōritātis: *considered (to be) of great influence*

Nihil: this is the beginning of the *exordium*, in which the speaker establishes the purpose of the oration and gets the attention of the audience

dictūrus sum: a future act. periphrastic with a pres. indic.

dēditiōnis nōmine: *by name of surrender*

habendōs...adhibendōs: pass. periphrastics in an indirect statement introduced by *cēnseō*; the *esse* is implied; *habendōs* here means “must be considered/regarded”

cīvium locō: *as citizens;* lit. “in place of citizens”; since Caes. regularly refers to tribes as *cīvitātēs*, this must mean “of tribesmen” or “of true Gauls” in this context; for a Roman audience, this would evoke the idea of the right of such people to be present at this deliberation, which is Caesar’s Gallic approximation of a Roman popular assembly

4 Cum hīs mihi rēs sit quī ēruptiōnem probant, quōrum in cōnsiliō, omnium vestrum cōnsēnsū, prīstinae residēre virtūtis memoria vidētur. Animī est ista mollitia, 5 nōn virtūs, paulīsp̄er inopiam ferre nōn posse. Quī sē ultrō mortī offerant facilius reperiuntur quam quī dolōrem patienter ferant.

cōnsēnsus, -ūs m.: an agreement, unanimity

inopia, -ae f.: lack, scarcity

memoria, -ae f.: memory, remembrance

mollitia, -ae f.: softness; weakness

offerō, -ferre, -tulī, -lātus: bring before, present, offer

patienter: patiently

paulīsp̄er: for a short time

probō (1): approve, esteem, commend

reperiō, -īre, rep(p)erī, repertus: find again; discover

residēre, -ēre, -sēdī, -sessus: remain behind, linger

ultrō: (here) wantonly; spontaneously

Cum hīs mihi rēs sit quī: *let my business be with these who*; dat. of possession with *rēs* and a hortatory subjunctive, *sit*, as the main verb; this serves as a brief *partitiō* and is followed by a long *refūtatiō*

omnium vestrum cōnsēnsū: abl. of specification with genitives

prīstinae...virtūtis: genitives with *memoria*, the subject

ista mollitia: *ista* here expresses contempt

ferre nōn posse: *nōn posse* is a subjective infinitive, and *ferre* is a complementary infinitive with *posse*

Quī...offerant...quī...ferant: rel. clauses of characteristic; supply *eī* for the antecedents of both

facilius...quam: *more easily...than*; comp. adv.

6 Atque ego hanc sententiam probārem (tantum apud mē dignitās potest), sī nūllam praeterquam vītae nostrae iactūram fierī vidērem. 7 Sed in cōnsiliō capiendō, omnem Galliam respiciāmus, quam ad nostrum auxilium concitāvimus.

concitō (1): rouse, excite, urge,

spur

iactūra, -ae f.: a throwing away,
loss

probō (1): approve, esteem,
commend

sententia, -ae f.: opinion,
judgment

tantus, -a, um: so much; just so
much

praeterquam: except, other than

respiciō, -ere, -spexī, -spectus:

look back, gaze at, look at

hanc sententiam: referring to the opinion he will suggest soon

tantum...potest: *worthiness prevails so greatly with me*; the *tantum* here is an adverbial acc.; Critognatus is clarifying that he has no problem with the idea of sallying out of Alesia because worthiness, *dignitās*, is important to him, but he thinks that his idea will have better results

nūllam: modifies *iactūram*

praeterquam vītae nostrae: *besides (the loss) of our lives*

fieri: *happen*; i.e., as a result of following the opinion of those who proposed a sally

in cōnsiliō capiendō: *in making a plan*; *cōnsilium capere* is the usual Latin idiom for “to make a plan,” here in a gerundive construction

8 Quid hominum mīlibus LXXX ūnō locō interfectīs
propinquīs cōsanguineīsque nostrīs animī fore exīstimātis, sī
paene in ipsīs cadāveribus proeliō dēcertāre cōgentur?

cadāver, -eris n.: a corpse, dead
body

cōsanguineus, -ī m.: a brother,
kinsman

dēcertō (1): go through a contest,
fight out

paene: nearly, almost

propinquus, -ī m.: a relation,
relative, kinsman

Quid...animī: *What (state) of mind;* partitive gen.; the *Quid* is the acc. subject of *fore* in an indirect statement introduced by *exīstimātis*

mīlibus LXXX...interfectīs: abl. abs.; *mīlibus LXXX* is 80,000

ūnō locō: abl. of place where; as usual, the preposition is omitted when *locus* is modified by an adjective

propinquīs cōsanguineīsque: dat. of reference with *Quid...animī*

fore: = *futūrum esse*; future act. infinitive of *esse*

in ipsīs cadāveribus: supply *nostrīs*; *on [our] bodies themselves*

proeliō dēcertāre: *to fight it out in battle*; Caes. uses this phrase twice in *BG*, and six times in *BC*

9 Nōlīte hōs vestrō auxiliō exspoliāre quī vestrae salūtis causā suum perīculum neglēxērunt nec stultitiā ac temeritāte vestrā aut animī imbēcillitāte omnem Galliam prōsternere et perpetuae servitūtī subicere.

exspoliō (1): despoil, strip

imbēcillitās, -tātis f.: weakness

temeritās, -tātis f.: rashness,
thoughtlessness, hastiness

neglegō, -ere, -glēxī, -glēctus:
disregard, not heed, neglect

prōsternō, -ere, -strāvī, -strātus:

cast down, overthrow; prostrate

stultitia, -ae f.: folly, foolishness

subiciō, -ere, -iēcī, -iectus: cast
under; make subject, subordinate

vestrō auxiliō: abl. of separation with *exspoliāre*

exspoliāre...prōsternere...subicere: infinitives with *Nōlīte*; negative imperatives; *exspoliāre* is a very rare word, used once by Caes. and four times by Cic.

nec...ac...aut...et: *nec* joins *exspoliāre* and the following clause (*prōsternere et...subicere*); *ac* joins *stultitiā* and *temeritāte*; *aut* joins *imbēcillitāte* with *stultitiā* and *temeritāte*; *et* joins *prōsternere* and *subicere*

stultitiā...temeritāte...imbēcillitāte: ablatives of cause

perpetuae servitūtī subicere: *throw [Gaul] under perpetual servitude*; dat. with *subicere*

10 *An*, quod ad diem nōn vērunt, dē eōrum fidē cōstantiāque dubitātis? Quid ergō? Rōmānōs in illīs ulteriōribus mūnitiōnibus animīne causā cotīdiē exercēri putātis? 11 Sī illōrum nūntiīs cōfirmārī nōn potestis, omnī aditū praesaepitō, hīs ūtiminī testibus appropinquāre eōrum adventum. Cuius reī timōre exterritī, diem noctemque in opere versantur.

aditus, -ūs **m.**: approach, entrance
appropinquō (1): approach
cōstantia, -ae **f.**: resolve, firmness
cotīdiē: every day
dubitō (1): doubt; hesitate
exerceō, -ēre, -uī, -itus: work hard
exterreō, -ēre, -uī, -itus: strike with terror, frighten

nūntius, -iī **m.**: a messenger; message
praesaepitō, -īre, -sī, -tus: block up, barricade
testis, -is **m.**: a witness
versor, -ārī, -ātus: live; (*w/ in*) be engaged in, occupied with
ulterior, -ius: farther

An: introduces a doubt or a double question

ad diem: *on the [expected] day*; the Gauls in Alesia were expecting the relief force

Quid ergō: *What then*; this indicates sarcasm

in illīs ulteriōribus mūnitiōnibus: these are the outer defenses built in *BG*

7.74.1; Critognatus suggests that the Romans would not have built them if the relief force was not coming

animīne causā: *for fun* (idiomatic); with the delayed enclitic *-ne*

hīs ūtiminī testibus: *use these [Romans as] witnesses*; imperative; see note above, *BG* 7.77.10

appropinquāre...adventum: indirect statement; when translated with *testibus*, *witnesses [who say] that their approach is coming near*

Cuius reī: *of which matter*; i.e., the arrival of the relief force outside

12 Quid ergō meī cōnsilī est? Facere quod nostrī maiōrēs nēquāquam parī bellō Cimbrōrum Teutonumque fēcērunt, quī, in oppida compulsī, ac similī inopiā subāctī, eōrum corporibus quī aetāte ad bellum inūtilēs vidēbantur vītam tolerāvērunt neque sē hostibus trādiderunt.

aetās, -tātis f.: age; old age

compellō, -pellere, -pulī, -pulsus:

drive together; compel, force

inopia, -ae f.: lack, scarcity

inūtilis, -e: useless

maiōrēs, maiōrum m. pl.:
ancestors

nēquāquam: by no means, not at all

pār, paris: equal, well-matched

subigō, -ere, -ēgī, -āctus: bring under; overcome

tolerō (1): sustain; maintain; endure

Quid...meī cōnsilī: *What is my plan;* cōnsilī is a partitive gen. with *Quid*

Facere: subjective infinitive; supply *meum cōnsilium* as the subj. and *est* as the verb

nēquāquam: adv. with *parī*

parī bellō: The Cimbri and the Teutones were the principal contingents of a large Germanic force originating in Jutland that pushed into Gaul and then Italy in the late 2nd c. BCE. They defeated every Gallic and Roman force they came across until they were finally defeated by the Roman consul Gaius Marius.

eōrum corporibus...vītam tolerāvērunt: that is, by consuming the bodies

quī: the antecedent is *eōrum*

aetāte: abl. of cause

ad bellum inūtilēs: *useless for war*

13 Cuius rei sī exemplum nōn habērēmus, tamen lībertātis causā īnstituī et posterīs prōdī pulcherrimum iūdicārem. 14 Nam quid illī simile bellō fuit? Dēpopulātā Galliā, Cimbrī, magnāque illātā calamitāte, fīnibus quidem nostrīs aliquandō excessērunt atque aliās terrās petiērunt; iūra, lēgēs, agrōs, lībertātem nōbīs reliquērunt.

aliquandō: (here) finally

dēpopulor, -ārī, -ātus: lay waste, ravage

exemplum, -ī n.: image; example model, precedent

fīnis, fīnis m.: border; (*pl.*) territory

īnferō, īnferre, intulī, illātus:

bring in; inflict

iūdicō (1): judge

posterī, -ōrum m. pl.: coming generations, descendants

prōdō, -ere, -didī, -ditus: put forth, exhibit

quidem: indeed

lībertātis causā: *for the sake of liberty*; see Appendix B; this begins the *perōrātiō* of the speech

īnstituī...prōdī: passive infinitives

posterīs prōdī: this idea of giving a good example to the coming generations of Gauls mirrors the example of the Cimbri and Teutones being shown to the Gauls in Alesia and the concept of the *prīstinae...virtūtis memoria* from BG 7.77.4

Dēpopulātā...illātā: abl. absolutes, connected with the delayed *-que* and interrupted by *Cimbrī*, the nominative plural subject of *excessērunt*

fīnibus...nostrīs: abl. of separation with *excessērunt*

nōbīs: dat. of reference

15 Rōmānī vērō quid petunt aliud aut quid volunt, nisi
invidiā adductī, quōs fāmā nōbilēs potentēsque bellō
cognōvērunt, hōrum in agrīs cīvitātibusque cōnsīdere atque
hīs aeternam iniungere servitūtem? Neque enim ūllā aliā
condiciōne bella gessērunt.

addūcō, -ere, -dūxī, -ductus: lead
to

cōnsīdō, -ere, -sēdī, -sessus: take
position; settle, sit down

fāmā, -ae f.: reputation

iniungō, -ere, -xī, -ctus: (here)
impose; (elsewhere) join, unite

invidia, -ae f.: envy; resentment

nōbilis, -e: (here) excellent, of
good quality

potēns, -ntis: mighty, powerful

vērō: and; but (postpositive)

volō, velle, voluī: want

quid...aliud...nisi: *what...other thing...except*; the thought will be picked up
again with the infinitives *cōnsīdere* and *iungere*

quōs: the antecedent is the following *hōrum* [*Gallōrum*]

fāmā nōbilēs potentēsque bellō: [*they*] *know to be noble by reputation and
powerful in war*; the *fāmā* and *bellō* are ablatives of specification

cōnsīdere...iniungere: infinitives with *volunt* and *petunt*

hīs: *upon these*; dat. with *iniungere*

ūllā aliā condiciōne: abl. of cause

16 Quod sī ea quae in longinquīs nātiōnibus geruntur ignōrātis, respicite fīnitimam Galliam, quae in prōvinciam redācta iūre et lēgibus commūtātis, secūribus subiecta, perpetuā premitur servitūte.”

commūtō (1): alter, change

fīnitimus, -a, -um: neighboring

premo, -ere, pressī, pressus: press,
(here) oppress

respiciō, -ere, -spexī, -spectus:
look at, refer to

redigō, -ere, -ēgī, -āctus: drive
back, force back

secūris, -is f.: an axe, hatchet

subiciō, -ere, -iēcī, -iectus: cast
under; make subject

Quod sī: *but if*

ignōrātis: second person plural (“you all ignore”), not a PPP; the direct object is *ea*

fīnitimam Galliam...prōvinciam: Gallia Transalpina, the portion of southern Gaul which had been a Roman territory since 121 BCE

redācta...subiecta: nom. participles agreeing with the subject (*quae*)

secūribus subiectā: *cast under Roman supremacy*, lit, “cast under the [Roman] axes,” referring to the Roman *fascēs* (bundles of wooden rods with a ceremonial axe embedded in them to signify the authority of Roman magistrates)

perpetuā...servitūte: abl. of means

[78] *Women, children, and the elderly are expelled from the town*

1 Sententiās dictās cōstituunt ut eī quī valētūdine aut aetāte inūtilēs sunt bellō oppidō excēdant, atque omnia prius experiantur quam ad Critognatī sententiam dēscendant.

2 Illō tamen potius ūtendum cōsiliō, sī rēs cōgat atque auxilia morentur, quam aut dēditiōnis aut pācis subeundam condiciōnem.

condiciō, -iōnis f.: condition

cōstituō, -ere, -uī, -ūtus: decide

experior, -īrī, -pertus: try

inūtilis, -e: useless

moror, -ārī, -ātus: delay

subeō, -īre, -iī, -itus: (here)

undertake, take up

ūtor, -ī, ūsus: use (+ abl.)

valētūdō -inis f.: state of health

valētūdine aut aetāte: *due to health or age*; abl. of cause

ut...excēdant atque...experiantur: indirect command

bellō: dat. with *inūtilēs*

oppidō: *from the town*; abl. of separation

Illō...ūtendum: [*they decide that*] *that plan must be utilized*; lit. "there must be a utilization with regards to that plan"

potius...quam: *rather...than*

subeundam condiciōnem: [*that*] *the condition be undertaken*

aut dēditiōnis aut pācis: take with *condiciōnem*

3 Mandubīi, quī eōs oppidō recēperant, cum liberīs atque uxōribus exīre cōguntur. Hī, cum ad mūnitiōnēs Rōmānōrum accessissent, flentēs omnibus precibus orābant ut sē in servitūtem receptōs cibō iuvārent. 4 At Caesar dispositīs in vāllō cūstōdibus recipī prohibēbat.

accēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessus:

approach, to draw near

cibus, -ī m.: food

cōgō, -ere, -ēgī, -āctus: (here)

compel, force

dispōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positus:

(here) assign; place

fleō, -ēre, flēvī, flētus: shed tears

liberī, -ōrum m.: (here) children

prēx, precis f.: prayer, request

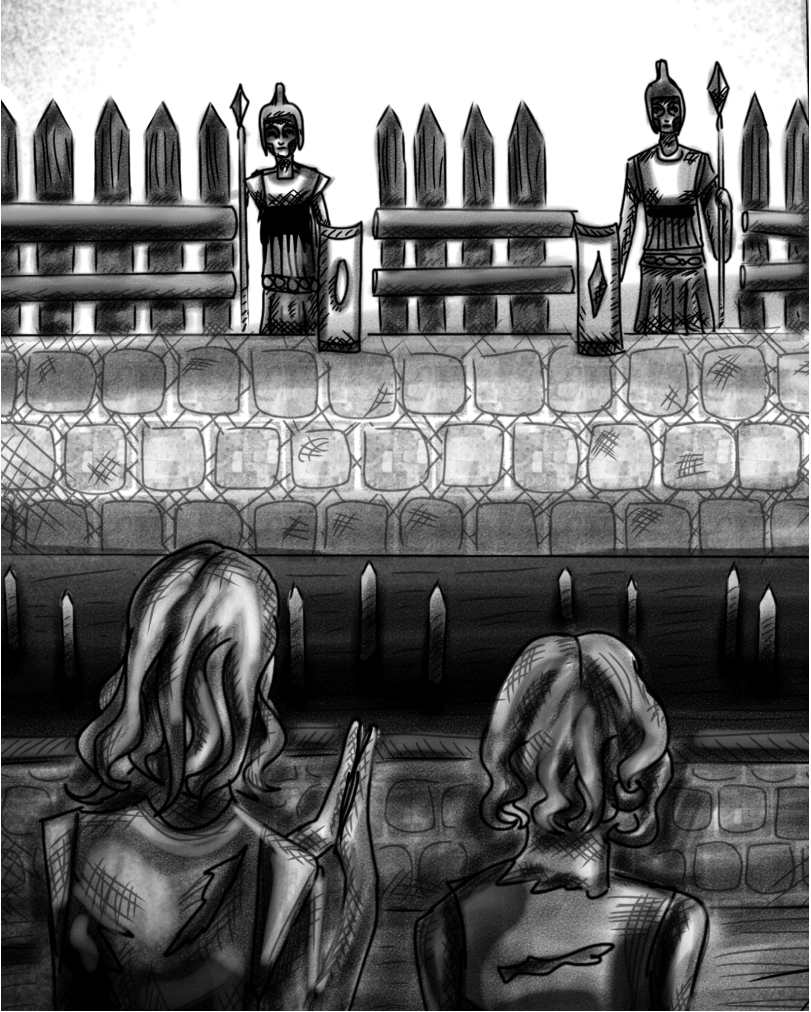
vāllum, -ī n.: wall, fortification

eōs oppidō recēpērunt: *had received them (the Gauls) in their town;* the Mandubii were the inhabitants of Alesia, and they are now being expelled from their own town

ut...iuvārent: indirect command

cibō: abl. of means

recipī prohibēbat: *forbids (them) to be received;* the expelled Mandubii, presumably mostly women, children, and the elderly, beg for food and are willing to be enslaved in return; Caes. refuses, leaving them (probably numbering in the thousands) to be trapped in the no man's land between the town and the Roman fortification



Uxōrēs liberīque Alesiae ad mūnitiōnēs Rōmānōrum accēdunt.

[79] *The Gallic host arrives and the besieged are encouraged*

1 Intereā Commius reliquīque ducēs quibus summa imperī permissa erat cum omnibus cōpiīs ad Alesiam perveniunt et colle exteriōre occupātō nōn longius mīlle passibus ab nostrīs mūnitiōnibus cōnsidunt. 2 Posterō diē equitatū ex castrīs ēductō omnem eam plānitiam, quam in longitudinem tria mīlia passuum patēre dēmōstrāvimus, complent, pedestrēsque cōpiās paulum ab eō locō abditās in locīs superiōribus cōstituunt.

abdō, -ere, -didī, -ditus: hide

compleō, -ēre, -ēvī, -plētus: fill
up

cōnsidō, -ere, -sēdī, -sessus: take
position; settle, sit down

collis, -is m.: high ground, hill

pateō, -ēre, -uī: (here) spread out

paulum: a little

permittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missus:
(here) grant, commit (+ dat.)

passus, -ūs m.: a pace

plānitīēs, -eī f.: a flat surface, plain

posterus, -a, -um: coming after

ad Alesiam: *towards the vicinity of Alesia*

colle exteriōre occupātō: *with an outer hill having been occupied;* that is, Commius and the arriving Gauls occupy a hill outside of Caesar's encirclement of Alesia

mīlle passibus: *than a thousand paces* (one Roman mile); abl. of comparison with the comp. adv. *longius*; the singular *mīlle* is indeclinable

tria mīlia passuum: *for three thousand paces;* three miles; acc. of extent of space

complent: the implicit subject is Commius and the arriving Gauls; the object is *omnem eam plānitiam*

in locīs superiōribus: *on higher ground*

3 Erat ex oppidō Alesiā dēspectus in campum. Concurrunt hīs auxiliīs vīsis; fit grātulātiō inter eōs, atque omnium animī ad laetitiam excitantur. 4 Itaque prōductīs cōpiīs ante oppidum cōnsīdunt et proximam fossam crātibus integunt atque aggere explent sēque ad ēruptiōnem atque omnēs cāsūs comparant.

agger, aggeris m.: dirt, rubble
campus, -ī m.: level ground; field
cāsus, -ūs m.: (here) outcome, event, chance
comparō (1): (here) prepare
concurrō, -ere, -cucurrī, -cursus: assemble
crātis, -is f.: a rough wooden platform
dēspectus, -ūs m.: viewpoint (downwards)

ēruptiō, -iōnis f.: a bursting forth; a sally, outward attack
explēō, -ēre, -ēvī, -ētus: fill up
fossa, -ae f.: ditch, trench
grātulātiō, -iōnis f.: rejoicing
integō, -ere, -tēxī, -tēctus: cover over
laetitia, -ae f.: joy, exultation
prōdūcō, -ere, -dūxī, -ductus: lead forth, bring out

in campum: *onto the field*

fossam crātibus: *crātēs* are rough frames of brushwood which provided a relatively flat and stable platform over difficult terrain. For their use by Romans in swampy terrain, see, e.g., *BG* 7.58.1

aggere: the Gauls begin to fill in the inward-facing Roman ditches with earth; Caes. does not elaborate on how this was accomplished, or in the face of what resistance

[80] *The Gauls attack the Roman defenses but are repelled*

1 Caesar omnī exercitū ad utramque partem mūnitiōnum dispositō ut, sī ūsus veniat, suum quisque locum teneat et nōverit, equitātum ex castrīs ēdūcī et proelium committī iubet. 2 Erat ex omnibus castrīs (quae summum undique iugum tenēbant) dēspectus, atque omnēs mīlitēs intentī pugnae prōventum exspectābant.

committō, -ere, -mīsī, -mīssus:

(here) join, enter into

dēspectus, -ūs m.: view

downwards

dispōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positus:

(here) set in order

ēdūcō, -ere, -dūxī, -ductus: lead

forth, march out

exercitus, -ūs m.: army

exspectō (1): await, anticipate

intentus, -a, -um: attentive,

focused

iugum, -ī n.: hill, ridge

nōscō, -ere, nōvī, nōtus: (here, in perf.) know, recognize

proelium, -iī: a battle, combat

proventus, -ūs m.: outbreak, beginning

undique: from all around, on all sides

ūsus, -ūs m.: (here) necessity

uterque, utraque, utrumque: each, both

ad utramque partem: Caes. has his army facing both inwards to Alesia and outwards to face the oncoming Gallic reinforcements

sī ūsus veniat: *if the necessity should arise*; that is, if the situation becomes precarious, he wants each soldier to know (*nōverit*) his assigned spot in the fortifications well and defend it (*teneat*); Caes. perhaps also means that each soldier had an assigned spot both on the inner and outer fortification, so that switching or reinforcing is as seamless as possible

quae: the antecedent is *castrīs*

3 Gallī inter equitēs rārōs sagittāriōs expeditōsque levis armātūrae interiēcerant quī suīs cēdentibus auxiliō succurrerent et nostrōrum equitum impetūs sustinērent. Ab hīs complūrēs dē imprōvīsō vulnerātī proeliō excēdēbant.

armātūra, -ae f.: weaponry

complūrēs, -plūrium: quite a few, many

imprōvīsus, -a, -um: unforeseen, unexpected

intericiō, -ere, -iēcī, -iectus: scatter, intersperse

levis, -e: light; nimble

rārus, -a, -um: (here) far apart, scattered, at intervals

sagittārius, -ī m.: an archer, bowman

succurrō, -ere, -currī -cursus: (here) come (to help)

sustineō, -ēre, -uī, -tentus: (here) bear, endure

vulnerō (1): wound

expeditōs: Gallic infantry skirmishers with light armament (*levis armātūrae*; gen. of characteristic)

suīs cēdentibus auxiliō: *as rearguard for their retreating comrades*; double dative construction

Ab hīs: *from these [cavalry of ours]*; the Latin demonstrative *hic, haec, hoc* typically refers to the noun closest in proximity to itself, so the *equitēs* here rather than the *expeditī*

dē imprōvīsō: *unexpectedly*; idiom



Sagittarij inter equitēs Gallicōs interiecti vulnerantur ab nostris.

4 Cum suōs pugnā superiōrēs esse Gallī cōnfiderent et nostrōs multitūdine premī vidērent, ex omnibus partibus et eī quī mūnītiōnibus continēbantur et hī quī ad auxilium convēnerant clāmōre et ululātū suōrum animōs cōnfirmābant. 5 Quod in cōnspectū omnium rēs gerēbātur neque rēctē ac turpiter factum cēlārī poterat, utrōsque et laudis cupiditās et timor ignōminiae ad virtūtem excitābant.

cēlō (1): hide

cōnfidō, -ere, cōnfisus: believe, rely on, be confident in

cōnfirmō (1): strengthen, make firm

cōnspectus, -ūs m.: sight, view

contineō, -ēre, -uī, contentus: hold together

ignōminia, -ae f.: disgrace, dishonor

premō, -ere, pressī, pressus: press, push hard

rēctē: rightly, correctly

turpiter: shamefully, disgracefully

ululātus, -ūs m.: howling, wailing

uterque, utraque, utrumque: each, both

Cum...cōnfiderent et...vidērent: causal cum clause

pugnā: *in battle*; abl. of specification

et eī...et hī: *both those...and these*

Quod: *because*

rēctē ac turpiter factum: *an action done well and one done shamefully*

utrōsque: *both sides*

6 Cum ā merīdiē prope ad sōlis occāsum dubiā victōriā pugnārētur, Germānī ūnā in parte cōnfertīs turmīs in hostēs impetum fēcērunt eōsque prōpulērunt; 7 quibus in fugam coniectīs sagittāriī circumventī interfectīque sunt. 8 Item ex reliquīs partibus nostrī cēdentēs ūsque ad castra īnsecūtī suī colligendī facultātem nōn dedērunt. 9 At eī quī ab Alesīā prōcesserant maestī prope victōriā dēspērātā sē in oppidum recēpērunt.

colligō, -ere, -lēgī, -lēctus:

assemble

cōnfertus, -a, -um: compact

cōniciō, -ere, -iēcī, -iectus: thrust

into, drive, hurl

dēspērō (1): be hopeless, despair

dubius, -a, -um: uncertain,

doubtful

facultas, -tātis f.: means, power

impetus, -ūs m.: attack

īnsequor, -ī, -secūtus: pursue

item: likewise

maestus, -a, -um: sad, sorrowful

merīdiēs, -ī m.: noon

occāsus, -ūs m.: falling, setting

prōcēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessus: go

forward

prope: near, near to

prōpellō -ere, -pulī, -pulsus: push

forward, drive away

sagittārius, -ī m.: archer

sōl, sōlis m.: sun

turma, -ae f.: squadron; formation

ūnus, -a, -um: one

victōria, victōriae f.: victory

ad sōlis occāsum: *to or until sunset*

dubiā victōriā: *with victory being uncertain; abl. abs.*

pugnārētur: *there was fighting; impersonal passive construction*

ūnā in parte: *in one area, on one side; abl. of place*

nostrī cēdentēs...īnsecūtī: *our men having followed their fleeing forces*

ad castra: *that is, the camp of the Gauls in front of Alesia*

suī colligendī facultātem: *the means to gather themselves; gerundive phrase*

[81] *The Romans defend a night attack by the Gauls*

1 Ūnō diē intermissō Gallī atque hōc spatiō magnō crātium,
scālārum, harpagōnum numerō effectō mediā nocte silentiō
ex castrīs ēgressī ad campestrēs mūnitiōnēs accēdunt.

campester, -tris: level, flat, even
crātis, -is f.: a rough wooden
platform
efficiō, -ere, effēcī, effectus:
make, complete

harpagō, -ōnis m.: grappling
hook
scālae, -ārum f.: ladder
silentium, -ī n.: silence

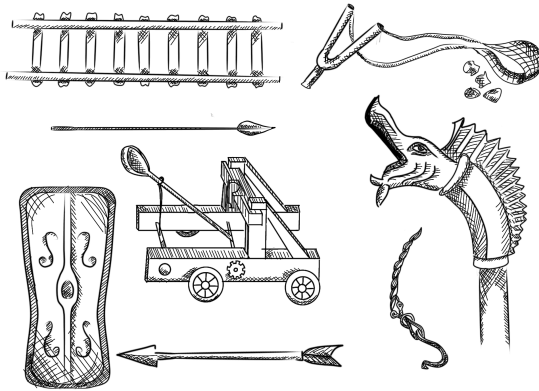
atque: connects the abl. abs. *diē intermissō* and *magnō...numerō effectō* (“one day having passed and a great number [of items] having been crafted”)

hōc spatiō: *in this interval* [of time]; that is, the one day that has passed

crātium: see note at BG 7.79.3

mediā nocte: *middle of the night*, abl. of time when

ex castrīs ēgressī: *having exited the camp*, refers to *Gallī*



scālae, tēlum, scūtum Gallicum, catapulta, sagitta, funda, carynx, harpagō

2 Subitō clāmōre sublātō, quā significātiōne quī in oppidō obsidēbantur dē suō adventū cognōscere possent, crātēs prōicere, fundīs, sagittīs, lapidibus nostrōs dē vāllō prōturbāre reliquaque quae ad oppugnātiōnem pertinent parant administrāre.

crātis, -is f.: a rough wooden platform

funda, -ae f.: sling

lapis, lapidis f.: stone

obsideō, -ēre, obsēdī, obsessus: (here) besiege; (elsewhere) remain

oppugnātiō, -iōnis f.: attack, assault, siege

pertineō, -ēre, -uī, pertentus:

pertain to, concern; extend

prōiciō, -icere, -iēcī, -iectus:

throw down

prōturbō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus: drive away, repel

sagitta, -ae f.: arrow

significātiō, -iōnis f.: signal, sign

tollō, -ere, sustulī, sublātus: raise; arise

Subitō clāmōre sublātō: *after a sudden shout had been raised, i.e., a battle cry;*

Caes. often associates an audible but unseen commotion with significant battlefield events, especially unexpected events; see, for instance, *BG* 2.24.3, 3.22.4, 4.15.1, 5.53.1

dē suō adventū cognōscere possent: *would be able to learn about their arrival*

crātēs: see note at *BG* 7.79.3

prōicere...prōturbāre...administrāre: infinitives governed by *parant*

fundīs, sagittīs, lapidibus: *slings, arrows, and stones;* abl. of means with *prōturbāre*

3 Eōdem tempore clāmōre exaudītō dat tubā signum suīs Vercingetorīx atque ex oppidō ēdūcit. 4 Nostrī, ut superiōribus diēbus, ut cuique erat locus attribūtus, ad mūnītiōnēs accēdunt; fundīs librīlibus sudibusque quās in opere disposuerant ac glandibus Gallōs prōterrent.

exaudiō, -īre, -īvī, -ītus: hear,
discern

funda, -ae f.: sling

glāns, glandis f.: (here) lead ball,
bullet; (elsewhere) acorn

librīlis, -e: weighing a pound

prōterreō, -ēre, -uī, -itum: scare
away, scare off

signum, -ī n.: (here) signal;
(elsewhere) mark, sign, military
standard

sudis, -is f.: stake

tuba, -ae f.: trumpet

Nostrī: *our (men)*; that is, the Roman soldiers

ut superiōribus diēbus: *as in the previous days*; abl. of time when

ut cuique...attribūtus: *since a spot had been assigned to each soldier*

fundīs librīlibus: *with slings (of) a pound each*

5 Prōspectū tenebrīs adēmtō multa utrimque vulnera accipiuntur. Complūra tormentīs tēla coniciuntur. 6 At Mārcus Antōnius et Gāius Trebōnius lēgātī, quibus hae partēs ad dēfendendum obvēnerant, quā ex parte nostrōs premī intellēxerant, hīs auxiliō ex ulteriōribus castellīs dēductōs summittēbant.

adimō, -ere, adēmī, adēmtus:

take away

complūrēs, -plūrium: quite a few, many

dēfendō, -ere, -ī, -fēnsus: ward off, repel

obveniō, -venīre, -vēnī, -ventus: (here) fall to one's lot; come up to, meet

prōspectus, -ūs m.: view, visibility

tēlum, tēlī n.: projectile

tenebrae, tenebrārum f.: darkness, gloom

tormentum, tormentī n.: ballista

utrimque: on both sides

Prōspectū tenebrīs adēmtō: *with visibility having been taken away by the darkness; abl. abs.*

Antōnius the famous Marcus Antonius, *quaestor* in 52 and Caesar's *legatus*, which post would continue *prō quaestōre* into 51.

Trebōnius: he had been a trusted *legatus* under Caes. since 54 and is assumed to have continued into 51 (*BG* 5.17; 5.24; 6.33; 7.11)

quibus hae partēs ad dēfendendum obvēnerant: *to whom the lot of defending these areas had fallen; lit. "to whom these areas had fallen for defending"*

dēductōs summittēbant: *they kept sending [militēs nostrōs] as they were led out from the further fortifications; the imperfect is iterative*

hīs auxiliō: *as a source of aid for these men; double dative construction (purpose and reference)*

[82] *The Gauls advance but the Romans hold them off*

1 Dum longius ab mūnitiōne aberant Gallī, plūs multitūdine tēlōrum prōficiēbant; posteāquam propius successērunt, aut sē stimulīs inopīnantēs induēbant aut in scrobēs dēlātī trānsfodiēbantur aut ex vāllō ac turribus trāiectī pīlīs mūrālibus interībant.

dēferō, -ferre, -tulī, -lātus: carry

away; sink, fall down

induō, -ere, -uī, -tus: put on;

(here) impale

inopīnāns, -antis: taken by

surprise

intereo, -ire, -ivi, -itus: die

posteāquam: after

prōficiō, -ere, prōfēcī, prōfectus:

advance, make headway

scrobis, -is f.: ditch, trench

stimulus, -ī m.: pointed stake; spur

succēdō, -ere, successī, -us: go

below; advance

trānsfodiō, -ere, -fōdī, -fossus:

transfix, transpierce

turris, -is f.: tower, turret

longius: *farther* relative to where they are later, when they are “nearer” (*propius*) the fortifications

multitūdine tēlōrum: *because of the mass of missiles*; that is, the missiles launched by the Gauls

stimulīs: *the spurs*; these are the stakes with iron hooks that had been buried intermittently along the plain, as Caes. described above at BG 7.73.9

in scrobēs dēlātī: *having fallen into the pits*; these are the pits filled with sharpened spikes, described by Caes. above at BG 7.73.5-7

pīlīs mūrālibus: Though often glossed as bolts shot from *tormenta*, these instead seem to be crude wooden throwing spears (*pīla*) with sharpened points. The same term appears at BG 5.40.6, and again in Tacitus *Annales* 4.51. These were probably stacked in piles and were better than nothing in a pinch, once the legions’ refined *pīla* (with metal tips) had been exhausted

2 *Multīs undique vulneribus acceptīs, nullā mūnītiōne perruptā, cum lūx appeteret, veritī nē ab latere apertō ex superiōribus castrīs ēruptiōne circumvenīrentur, sē ad suōs recēpērunt.*

appetō, -ere, -petīvī, -petītus:

seek; (here) to draw near, be at hand

circumveniō, -īre, -vēnī, -ventus:

encompass, circle, surround

perrumpō, -ere, -rūpī, -ruptus:

break through

undique: from all around, on all sides

vereor, -ērī, -ītus: fear, respect, revere

Multīs...acceptīs: abl. abs., *with many wounds having been received on all sides*

nullā mūnītiōne perruptā: implied “and” separating *multīs...acceptīs* and this clause

veritī nē...circumvenīrentur: *fearing that they might be surrounded;* fear clause; subject is still the Gauls

ab latere apertō: *from the open flank*

sē ad suōs recēpērunt: *took themselves back to their own (people);* i.e., returned to the Gallic camp

3 At interiōrēs, dum ea quae ā Vercingetorīge ad ēruptiōnem praeparāta erant prōferunt, priōrēs fossās explent, diūtius in hīs rēbus administrandīs morātī prius suōs discessisse cognōvērunt, quam mūnitiōnibus appropinquārent. Ita rē infectā in oppidum revertērunt.

diū: for a long time

expleō, -ēre, -ēvī, -ētus: fill up

īnfectus, -a, -um: unfinished, undone

moror (1): delay

praeparō (1): prepare

prior, prius: earlier, first

prōferō, -ferre, -tulī. -lātus: carry out, produce

revertō, -ere, -ī: turn back, return

interiōrēs: that is, the Gauls besieged within Alesia

ad ēruptiōnem praeparāta: *prepared for a sally*

in...administrandīs: *in managing these things;* gerundive phrase

prius...cognōvērunt...quam...appropinquārent: *they learned...before they approached;* the *priusquam* has been separated, as often happens

mūnitiōnibus: the verb *appropinquāre* takes a dat.

rē infectā: abl. abs., *the matter having been left unfinished*

[83] *The Gauls strategize another attack*

1 Bis magnō cum dētrīmentō repulsī Gallī quid agant
cōnsulunt; locōrum perītōs adhibent: ex hīs superiōrum
castrōrum sitūs mūnitiōnēsque cognōscunt.

adhibeō, -ēre, -uī, -itus: apply;
(here) consult

bis: twice

cōnsulō, -ere, -uī, -tus: consult,
take counsel

dētrīmentum, -ī n.: damage, loss

perītus, -a, -um: experienced,
skillful

repellō, -ere, reppulī, -pulsus:
drive back, push away, fend off

situs, -ūs m.: situation, local
position, site

magnō cum dētrīmentō: abl. of manner

quid agant cōnsulunt: *take counsel (regarding) what to do;* indirect question

locōrum perītōs: *those familiar with the local geography;* objective gen.

ex hīs: i.e., the *perītōs*; those knowledgeable about the topography

2 Erat ā septentriōnibus collis, quem propter magnitudinem circuitūs opere circumplectī nōn potuerant nostrī: necessariō paene inīquō locō et lēniter dēclīvī castrā fēcērunt. 3 Haec Gāius Antistius Rēgīnus et Gāius Canīnius Rebilus lēgātī cum duābus legiōnibus obtinēbant.

circuitus, -ūs m.: going round,
circuit

circumplector, -plectī, -plexus:
surround

dēclīvīs, -e: sloping

inīquus, -a, -um: uneven; (here)
unfavorable

necessariō: necessarily,
unavoidably, inevitably

obtimeō, -ēre, -uī, obtentus:
possess, have; occupy; maintain

paene: nearly, almost

septentriōnēs, -um m. pl.: (here)
the north direction (towards the
seven stars of the *Ursa Major*
constellation)

ā septentriōnibus collis: *on the north of the hill*; when used with directions, *ab* typically denotes the direction from which the object is viewed, and would be translated “in” or “to” or “on”

circumplectī: complementary infinitive with *nōn potuerant*

nostrī: *our (men)*

Rēgīnus...Rebilus: Rēgīnus was a *legatus* under Caes. from 53 to 51 (*BG* 6.1).

Rebilus is first mentioned here, but continued into 51 and initiated the siege at Uxellodunum (*BG* 8.24-37). His support of Caes. continued into the Civil War, where he fought in North Africa and Spain

cum duābus legiōnibus: *with two legions*; abl. of accompaniment

4 Cognitīs per explōrātōrēs regiōnibus ducēs hostium LX mīlia ex omnī numerō dēligunt eārum cīvitatū quae maximam virtūtis opīniōnem habēbant; 5 quid quōque pactō agī placeat occultē inter sē cōstituunt; adeundī tempus dēfīniunt, cum merīdiēs esse videātur.

adeō, -īre, adiī, adītus: go to;

(here) attack

dēfīniō, -īre, -īvī/-īī, -ītus: define,

set

dēligō, -ere, -lēgī, -lēctus:

choose, designate

explōrātor, -ōris m.: explorer, spy,

scout

merīdiēs, -eī m.: noon, midday

occultus, -a, -um: secret

opīniō, -iōnis f.: (here) reputation;

(elsewhere) opinion, expectation

pactum, -ī n.: agreement, pact

placeō, -ēre, -uī, -itus: approve,

be pleasing, satisfy

regiō, -iōnis f.: area

per explōrātōrēs: *through scouts*; in addition to asking advice from those knowledgeable about the terrain, the Gauls also scout out the region in order to plan their third attack

LX mīlia: 60,000 (soldiers); like many numbers of enemies in Caes., this one seems impossibly large; such a force would have had great difficulty carrying out a secret attack

ex omnī numerō: *from the whole number*; the Gauls choose their best soldiers out of them all

maximam virtūtis opīniōnem: *greatest reputation for valor*; this is essentially the Gauls' final stand (at least as an organized, unified entity) so they choose their best soldiers

quōque pactō: *and how*; lit. "and by what agreement"; the *quōque* is the interrogative adjective with the enclitic *-que*

adeundī tempus: *the time to attack*; lit. "the time of attacking"; gerund

cum merīdiēs esse videātur: *when it seemed to be midday*

6 Hīs cōpiīs Vercassivellaūnum Arvernum, ūnum ex quattuor ducibus, propinquum Vercingetorīgis, praeficiunt. 7 Ille ex castrīs prīmā vigiliā ēgressus prope cōfectō sub lūcem itinere post montem sē occultāvit mīlitēsque ex nocturnō labōre sēsē reficere iussit.

lūx, lūcis f.: light, daylight; day or hour

mōns, montis m.: mountain

nocturnus, -a, -um: pertaining to the night; nightly, nocturnal

occultō (1): hide, conceal; cover up

praeficiō, -ere, praefēcī,

praefectus: put in charge, place in command

prīmus, -a, -um: first, beginning

propinquus, -a, -um: (here) relative, kinsman; (elsewhere)

near; neighboring

quattuor: four

reficiō, -ere, refēcī, refectus:

restore, rebuild; rest, refresh

vigilia, -ae f.: a watch, vigil

Vercassivellaūnum: see Appendix A

prīmā vigiliā: *at the first watch*; refers to the first of four divisions of the night used by Roman soldiers, approximately 6 PM to 9 PM

prope cōfectō...itinere: *with the journey having nearly been completed*; abl. abs.

sub lūcem: *just before dawn*; an idiomatic expression

ex nocturnō labōre: *from their night's labor*

8 Cum iam merīdiēs appropinquāre vidērētur, ad ea castra quae suprā dēmōnstrāvimus contendit; eōdemque tempore equitātus ad campestrēs mūnitiōnēs accēdere et reliquae cōpiae prō castrīs sēsē ostendere coepērunt.

coepī, -isse, coeptus: begin
merīdiēs, -iēi m.: noon, midday

ostendō, -ere, -ī: point out, show
suprā: above (adv.)

Cum...vidērētur: temporal clause introduced by *cum*

ad ea castra quae suprā dēmōnstrāvimus: *to the camp that we mentioned above* (at BG 7.83.2)

eōdemque tempore: *and at the same time*; *eōdem* + the enclitic *-que*

coepērunt: apply to both *equitātus* and *cōpiae*

[84] *Vercingetorix leads a counterattack; Roman forces resist*

1 Vercingetorix ex arce Alesiae suos cōnspicātus ex oppidō ēgreditur; crātēs, longuriōs, mūsculōs, falcēs reliquaue quae ēruptiōnis causā parāverat prōfert. 2 Pugnātur ūnō tempore omnibus locīs, atque omnia temptantur: quae minimē vīsa pars fīrma est hūc concurritur.

arx, arcis f.: castle, fortress

cōnspicor, -ārī, -ātus: see, perceive, get sight of

concurrō, -ere, -currī, -cursus: crowd together; rush

crātis, -is f.: a rough wooden platform

falx, falcis f.: a curved blade, sickle

fīrmus, -a, -um: strong, firm

longurius, -ī m.: a long pole

mūsculus, -ī m.: (here) military shed, mantelet; a little mouse

prōferō, -erre, -tulī, -lātus: carry out; bring forth

temptō (1): try, attempt; attack

suos cōnspicātus: *having seen his (men)*

crātēs, longuriōs, mūsculōs, falcēs: *platforms, long poles, military sheds* (see *BC* 2.10-11), *sickles*; military terminology—these items were standard tools for siege or counter-siege warfare; for *crātēs*, see *BG* 7.79.3

ēruptiōnis causā: *for the sake of a sally*

Pugnātur: *they battle*, lit. “it is fought”; impersonal passive construction, which indicates that fighting is happening broadly, without specifying the subject; see also *concurritur* below

quae minimē vīsa pars fīrma est: *the area that was viewed as the least strong*; rel. clause with *pars*

3 Rōmānōrum manus tantīs mūnitiōnibus distīnētur nec facile plūribus locīs occurrit. 4 Multum ad terrendōs nostrōs valet clāmōr, quī post tergum pugnantibus exstitit, quod suum perīculum in aliēnā vident salūte cōnstāre: 5 omnia enim plērumque quae absunt vehementius hominum mentēs perturbant.

aliēnus, -a, -um: another's
cōnstō, -āre, -stitī, -stātus: (here) correspond to, be determined by
distīnēō, -ēre, -uī, -tentus: separate; stretch out
enim: for indeed, in fact
existō, -ere, exstitī: exist; emerge
manus, -ūs f.: (here) armed force, troop; (elsewhere) a hand

occurrō, -ere, -ī, -sus: run to; meet
perturbō (1): throw into disorder
plērumque: for the most part
terreō, -ēre, -uī, -itus: frighten
valeō, -ēre, -uī: be strong
vehementius: more eagerly; violently

tantīs mūnitiōnibus: *because of such large fortifications*; abl. of cause
nec facile plūribus locīs occurrit: *and cannot easily respond in multiple locations*; abl. of place for *plūribus locīs*; *locus*, as usual, omits the preposition when modified by an adjective
Multum ad terrendōs nostrōs valet clāmōr: *the clamor is very effective for frightening our (men)*; the *ad terrendōs nostrōs* is a gerundive construction in the acc. expressing purpose; *multum* here is adverbial
post tergum pugnantibus: *behind the back of the fighters*; with body parts, Latin regularly uses a dat. of reference where English uses a genitive of possession
quod suum perīculum in aliēnā vident salūte cōnstāre: *because they see their own danger to be determined by the safety of others*; Caes. seems to mean that the Romans defending the interior fortifications facing Alesia are relying for their safety on the Romans defending the exterior fortifications facing the Gallic reinforcements

[85] *Caesar strategizes and the Gauls despair*

1 Caesar idōneum locum nactus quid quāque ex parte gerātur cōgnōscit; labōrantibus summittit. 2 Utrīsque ad animum occurrit ūnum esse illud tempus quō maximē contendī conveniat.

conveniō, -īre, -vēnī, -ventus:
come together; (here) be fitting

idōneus, -a, -um: suitable, fit,
convenient

nancīscor, -ī, nactus: obtain, find

occurrō, -ere, -ī, -sus: run to,
come to; meet

summittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missus:
(here) send as aid/support for (+
dat.)

uter-, utra-, utrumque: each, both

idōneum locum nactus: *having found a suitable place*; deponent participle with a direct object

quid quāque ex parte gerātur: indirect question, set up by *quid*, the interrogative pronoun, and *quā*, an interrogative adjective (with enclitic *-que*) agreeing with *parte*

labōrantibus: *to those struggling*; dat. participle

summittit: assume *mīlitēs* as an object, with dat. *labōrantibus*

Utrīsque...occurrit: *it occurred to the mind of each side*; dat. of possession

ūnum esse illud tempus: accusative-infinitive construction due to the indirect statement introduced by *occurrit*

quō maximē contendī conveniat: *in which it is most fitting that it be fought*; *quō* is an abl. of time when, and *contendī* is a passive infinitive

3 Gallī, nisi perfrēgerint mūnītiōnēs, dē omnī salūte dēspērant; Rōmānī, sī rem obtinuerint, finem labōrum omnium exspectant. 4 Maximē ad superiōrēs mūnītiōnēs labōrātur, quō Vercassivellaūnum missum dēmōnstrāvimus. Inīquum locī ad dēclīvitātem fastīgium magnum habet mōmentum.

dēclīvitās, -tātis f.: slope, decline
inīquus, -a, -um: uneven, slanted, steep; unfavorable
fastīgium, -ī n.: peak, summit

mōmentum, -ī n.: movement, motion; importance
obtinēō, -ēre, -uī, obtentus: possess, have; occupy; maintain
perfringō, -ere, perfrēgī, perfractus: break through; shatter

nisi perfrēgerint...obtinuerint: future more vivid conditionals with future perfect indicatives; *nisi* here can be translated as *unless*

Maximē...labōrātur: *they struggle greatly*, lit. “it is labored greatly”; impersonal passive construction

Inīquum locī...fastīgium: *the unfavorable summit of the place*

ad dēclīvitātem: *at its downward slope*

quō: *to where*

Vercassivellaūnum missum dēmōnstrāvimus: see BG 7.84.1

5 Alii tēla cōniciunt, alii testūdine factā subeunt; dēfatīgātis in vicem integrī succēdunt. 6 Agger ab ūniversīs in mūnitiōnem cōniectus et ascēsum dat Gallīs et ea quae in terrā occultāverant Rōmānī contegit; nec iam arma nostrīs nec vīrēs suppetunt.

ascēsus, -ūs m.: an ascent

contegō, -ere, contēxī, contēctus:

cover up, bury

dēfatīgō (1): tire out, fatigue,

exhaust

integer, -gra, -grum: (here) fresh,

uninjured, vigorous; (elsewhere)

entire, whole

occultō (1): hide, conceal; cover up

subeō, -īre, subīvī/subiī, -itus:

come under, go under

succēdō, -ere, successī, -us: follow after, succeed (+ dat.)

suppetō, -ere, -īvī, -itus: (here)

be sufficient for; (elsewhere) be at hand, available

testūdō, -inis f.: (here) defensive

formation; (elsewhere) tortoise

ūniversus, -a, -um: all together;

everybody

vicis, -is f.: alternation

Alii...alii: *some...others*

testūdine factā: *testūdō* refers to the “tortoise” formation, where soldiers would overlap their shields above their heads to create a protective cover

in vicem: *in alternation, in turn*

integrī: *fresh (troops)*, these are soldiers who have not yet fought and are stepping in to replace the tired ones

ab ūniversīs: abl. of agent, indicating that the rampart is being constructed by “everyone”

et...et: *both...and*

ea quae in terrā: the traps which the Romans had hidden in the ground are now being covered over because the Gauls are filling in the Roman defensive trenches with dirt and debris (the *agger*)

nec iam...nec: *now neither...nor*

[86] *Caesar sends reinforcements as the Gauls renew their attack*

1 Hīs rēbus cōgnitīs Caesar Labiēnum cum cohortibus sex subsidiō labōrantibus mittit: 2 imperat, sī sustinēre nōn posset, dēductīs cohortibus ēruptiōne pugnāret; id nisi necessāriō nē faciat. 3 Ipse adit reliquōs, cohortātur nē labōrī succumbant; omnium superiōrum dīmīcātiōnum frūctum in eō diē atque hōrā docet cōnsistere.

necessāriō: necessarily, inevitably

adeō, -īre, -īvī/īī, -itus: go to, approach; consult

cohortor (1): encourage

cōnsistō, -ere, -stitī, -stitus: stand still/firm; halt, stop

dīmīcātiō, -iōnis f.: fight, struggle

doceō, -ēre, -uī, -tus: instruct

frūctus, -ūs m.: profit; reward

hōra, -ae f.: hour; time

necessāriō: necessarily, inevitably

sex: six

subsidiū, -ī n.: aid, assistance

succumbō, -ere, succubūī, -itus:

sink under; succumb to

mittit: these sections are characterized by short, terse phrases with historic present verbs in order to emphasize the rapidity and urgency of the action

subsidiō labōrantibus: *as aid to those struggling*; double dative construction

imperat: Caes. is still the subject; this verb governs two indirect commands: *pugnāret* and *nē faciat*

sī sustinēre nōn posset: *if [Labiennus] is not able to endure*; the verbs are imperfect subjunctives in secondary sequence because they are governed by the historic present *imperat*

ēruptiōne pugnāret: Labienus is to defend his position with these six cohorts if able, and to make a counterattack into the advancing Gauls if not

Ipse: *he himself*; that is, Caes.

nē labōrī succumbant: *not to succumb to the pain*; indirect command

4 Interiōrēs dēspērātīs campestribus locīs propter magnitudinem mūnitiōnum loca praerupta ex ascēnsū temptant: hūc ea quae parāverant cōferunt. 5 Multitudīne tēlōrum ex turribus prōpugnantēs dēturbant, aggere et crātibus fossās explent, falcibus vāllum ac lōricam rescindunt.

ascēnsus, -ūs m.: an ascent	lōrica, -ae f.: (here) parapet, fortification
cōferō, -ferre, cōtulī, cōllātus: bring together, gather, unite	praeruptus, -a, -um: steep
crātis, -is f.: a rough wooden platform	prōpugnō (1): go forth to fight; defend
dēturbō (1): overthrow; strike down	rescindō, -ere, rescidī, -issus: cut off, cut down, destroy
explēō, -ēre, -ēvī, -ētus: fill up	temptō (1): try, attempt; attack
falx, falcis f.: a curved blade, sickle	turris, -is f.: tower, turret
fossa, -ae f.: ditch, trench	vāllus, -ī m.: rampart, palisade
interior, -ius: interior, inner	

Interiōrēs: *interior (men)*; the Gauls besieged within Alesia

dēspērātīs campestribus locīs: *with the flat places having been given up as lost*; abl. abs.

loca praerupta: *steep places*; *locus* is neuter in the plural

quae parāverant: rel. clause; antecedent is *ea*

Multitudīne: abl. of means, *with a great number*

ex turribus prōpugnantēs dēturbant: *(the inner Gauls) strike down those fighting forward from the towers (Romans)*

crātibus: see note at BG 7.79.3

falcibus: abl. of means

[87] *Caesar reinforces Labienus*

1 Mittit prīmō Brūtum adulēscēntem cum cohortibus Caesar, post cum aliīs Gaium Fabium lēgātum; postrēmō ipse, cum vehementius pūgnārētur, integrōs subsidiō addūcit.

addūcō, -ere, -duxī, -ductus: lead, bring to

integer, -gra, -grum: (here) fresh, uninjured, vigorous; (elsewhere) entire, whole

post: afterwards

postrēmō: at last, finally

subsidiū, -iī n.: support, help; reinforcement

vehementius: very eagerly; violently

Brutum...Gaium Fabium: see Appendix A

cum cohortibus: Caes. is not typically this vague when it comes to numbers of cohorts, and it is possible that the written number has fallen out of the text through the centuries, possibly in connection with further textual problems below at 87.3

lēgātum: agrees with *Gaium Fabium*

cum vehementius pūgnārētur: causal cum clause with imperfect subjunctive

integrōs subsidiō addūcit: *he brings fresh (troops) for support*; dat. of purpose

2 Restitūtō proeliō ac repulsīs hostibus eō quō Labiēnum mīserat contendit; cohortēs quattuor ex proximō castellō dēdūcit, equitum partem sequī, partem circumīre exteriōrēs mūnitiōnēs et ab tergō hostēs adorīrī iubet.

adorior, -īrī, adortus: approach as

an enemy; attack

castellum, -ī n.: stronghold; refuge

circumeo (circueō), -īre,

-īī/-īvī, circuitus: go around,

march around; surround

eō: there, to that place (adv.)

quattuor: four

quō: to where (rel. adv.)

repellō, -ere, reppulī, -pulsus:

drive back, push away, fend off

restituō, -ere, -uī, restitūsus:

replace; restore, rebuild

Restitūtō...repulsīs: both governing parallel abl. absolutes

quō Labiēnum mīserat: *where he had sent Labienus*

sequī...circumīre...adorīrī: present infinitives with *iubet*

3 Labiēnus, postquam neque aggerēs neque fossae vim hostium sustinēre poterant, coāctīs ūnā XI cohortibus, quās ex proximīs praesidiīs dēductās fors obtulit, Caesarem per nūntiōs facit certiōrem quid faciendum exīstimet. Accelerat Caesar ut proeliō intersit.

accelerō (1): hasten, accelerate

agger, aggeris m.: (here)
earthworks

exīstimō (1): value, estimate,
reckon

fors, fortis f.: chance, luck;
accident

intersum, -esse, -fuī: (here) be
present, take part in

nūntius, -ī m.: messenger, envoy

offerō, -erre, obtulī, -ātus: bring
before, present, offer

praesidium, -iī n.: (here)
fortification, outpost

neque...neque: *neither...nor*

coāctīs...XI cohortibus: *with eleven cohorts having been assembled*; abl. abs.; some manuscripts print *XL* (40), which would be an impossibly large force given the desperate circumstances

ūnā: adv. meaning *together*, indicating that the cohorts are being gathered in one place

quās...fors obtulit: Caes. must have previously arranged for these forces to be drawn from areas of the wall where there was no fighting, and now they happen to arrive

Caesarem...facit certiōrem: *he informs Caesar*; idiom, lit. “he makes Caes. more certain”

quid faciendum exīstimet: *what he reckons should be done*; indirect question, the *faciendum* is a gerundive

ut proeliō intersit: *to take part in the battle*; purpose clause

[88] *The Gauls at the outer fortifications are routed and dispersed*

1 Eius adventū ex colōre vestītūs cognitō, quō īsignī in proeliīs ūtī cōnsuērat, turmīsque equitum et cohortibus vīsīs quās sē sequī iusserat, ut dē locīs superiōribus haec dēclīvia et dēvexa cernēbantur, hostēs proelium committunt.

cernō, -ere, crēvī, crētus:

perceive; discern

color, -ōris m.: color

committō, -ere, commīsī,

commīssus: begin, commence

cōnsuēscō, -ere, -ēvī, -ētus:

accustom; (when perf.) to be accustomed

dēclīvis, -e: sloping, inclined

dēvexus, -a, -um: sloping, inclined

īsigne, -is n.: insignia; badge of honor or rank

turma, -ae f.: troop, squadron

vestītus, -ūs m.: clothing

Eius adventū...cognitō: *when his arrival was recognized; abl. abs.*

ex colōre vestītūs: *from the color of his clothing; Caes. would have worn a distinguishing commander's cloak colored with a bold red or purple dye; it was the privilege of those with imperium to wear this paludamentum*

turmīs: a subunit of Roman cavalry consisting of approximately 30 horsemen

vīsīs: abl. abs. with *turmīsque equitum et cohortibus*

ut: *since*

2 Utrimque clāmōre sublātō excipit rūsus ex vāllō atque omnibus mūnitiōnibus clāmor. Nostrī, omissīs pīlīs, gladiīs rem gerunt. 3 Repente post tergum equitātus cernitur; cohortēs aliae appropinquant. Hostēs terga vertunt; fugientibus equitēs occurrunt. Fit magna caedēs.

appropinquō (1): come near, approach

cernō, -ere, crēvī, crētus: perceive, discern

excipiō, -ere, excēpī, exceptus: (here) take up, follow after

occurrō, -ere, -ī, -sus: run into (+ dat.)

omittō, -ere, omīsī, omissus: let go, set aside; disregard

pīlum, -ī n.: javelin

repente: suddenly

rūsus: again (adv.)

tergum, -ī n.: back, rear

tollō, -ere, sustulī, sublātus: raise; arise

utrimque: from each side

vāllus, -ī m.: rampart, palisade

vertō, -ere, -ī, versus: turn

excipit rūsus...clāmor: *a cry followed again from the rampart and all along the fortifications*; subj. is *clāmor*

Nostrī: *Our (men)*; substantive

omissīs pīlīs: abl. abs.

gladiīs rem gerunt: this, as well as the following several sentences, are written in a staccato fashion, reflecting the rapid succession of events and the brutality of combat; for another instance of this terminology, see *BG* 5.44.11

fit: here “happens”

4 Sēdulus, dux et prīnceps Lemovīcum, occīditur;
Vercassivellaūnus Arvernus vīvus in fugā comprehenditur;
signa mīlitāria septuāgintā quattuor ad Caesarem referuntur:
paucī ex tantō numerō sē incolumēs in castra recipiunt.

comprehendō, -ere, -ī, -sus: catch, seize	paucus, -a, -um: few; little
mīlitāris, -ris, -re: of the military	referō, -ferre, rettulī, relātus: return, bring back; report
incolumis, -e: uninjured, unharmēd	septuāgintā: seventy
occīdō, -ere, -cidī, -cīsus: kill, slaughter	signum, -ī n.: (here) a military standard; (elsewhere) a mark, sign
	vīvus, -a, -um: alive

Sēdulus: a *vergobret* (high Gallic magistrate) of the Lemovices

Vercassivellaūnus: see Appendix A

signa mīlitāria...referuntur: these are Gallic standards, and cannot be reliably connected to any number; presumably Caes. is here reinforcing his claim of 60,000 chosen Gallic troops back in 83.4

paucī ex tantō numerō: *so few from such a great number*; that is, so few Gauls from the large force of 60,000 that Vercassivellaūnus had led for the final attack (*BG* 7.83.4-6)

5 Cōnspicātī ex oppidō caedem et fugam suōrum dēspērātā salūte, cōpiās ā mūnitiōnibus redūcunt. 6 Fit prōtinus hāc rē audītā ex castrīs Gallōrum fuga. Quod nisi crēbrīs subsidiīs ac tōtīus diēi labōre mīlitēs essent dēfessī, omnēs hostium cōpiaē dēlēri potuissent. 7 Dē mediā nocte missus equitātus novissimum agmen cōnsequitur: magnus numerus capitur atque interficitur; reliquī ex fugā in cīvitātēs discēdunt.

cōnsequor, -quī, -secūtus: follow;
overtake

cōnspicor, -ārī, -ātus: see

crebēr, -bra, -brum: crowded

dēfetīscor, -ī, dēfessus: be tired,
grow weary

discēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessus:
scatter, disperse

prōtinus: immediately

redūcō, -ere, redūxī, reductus:
lead back; withdraw

subsidiū, -iī n.: aid, assistance

Cōnspicātī: nom. participle, referring to the Gauls besieged within Alesia

nisi...essent dēfessī...potuissent: *if they had not been exhausted...they would have been able*; a past contrary-to-fact conditional

ex castrīs Gallōrum fuga: *flight of the Gauls from their camp*; this would be the camp of the large force that had come to relieve the siege of Alesia

crēbrīs subsidiīs: *with constant assistance*; that is, from the Romans troops constantly coming to each others' aid

Dē mediā nocte: *at midnight*; abl. of time

novissimum: *the rearmost*; that is, the “newest” in the sense of the Gauls closest to the Romans

ex fugā...discēdunt: *continued in their flight*; i.e., the surviving Gauls continued to flee and escaped; this is a specific military idiom used frequently by Caes. (*BG* 6.35.6, 7.28.6, etc) and Livy, but almost nowhere else



Adventus Caesaris ex colōre vestītūs cōgnītus.

[89] *Final council of the Gauls*

1 Posterō diē Vercingetorīx conciliō convocātō id bellum sē
suscēpisse nōn suārum necessitātium, 2 sed commūnis
libertātis causā dēmōnstrat, et quoniam sit fortunāe
cēdendum, ad utramque rem sē illīs offerre, seu morte suā
Rōmānīs satisfacere seu vīvum trādere velint. Mittuntur dē
hīs rēbus ad Caesarem lēgātī.

cēdō, -ere, cessī, cessus: (here)

yield, submit (+ dat.)

convocō (1): summon; assemble

necessitās, -tātis f.: necessity

offerō, -ferre, -tulī, -lātus: bring

before, present

satisfaciō, -ere, -fēcī, -factus:

satisfy, placate (+ dat.)

suscipiō, -ere, -cēpī, -ceptus:

undertake

volō, velle, voluī: want, will, wish

sē...suscēpisse...offerre: indirect statements governed by *dēmōnstrat*

id bellum: *this war*; the *id* here is acting as a demonstrative adjective rather than a pronoun

commūnis libertātis causā: *for the sake of shared liberty*; see Appendix B

ad utramque rem: *for either thing*; setting up two following alternatives

seu...seu: *sive...sive (whether...or)*. Verc. offers his own death, or to be handed over alive to the Romans

velint: subjunctive in an indirect question; the implicit subject is the other Gauls in the council

3 Iubet arma trādī, p̄ncipēs prōdūcī. 4 Ipse in mūnitiōne prō castrīs cōnsēdit: eō ducēs prōdūcuntur; Vercingetorīx dēditur, arma prōiciuntur. 5 Reservātis Aeduīs atque Arvernīs, sī per eōs cīvitātēs recipere posset, ex reliquīs captīvīs tōtō exercituī capita singula praedae nōmine distribuit.

captīvus, -a, -um: captured; (as subst.) a captive or prisoner
dedō, dedere, dedidī, deditum: surrender
eō: there, to that place (adv.)
praeda, -ae f.: plunder, spoils of war

prōdūcō, -ere, prōdūxī,
prōductus: lead forth; bring out
prōiciō, -icere, iēcī, -iectus: throw down; cast out
recipere (1): recover, regain; restore
reservō (1): reserve, preserve

Reservātis Aeduīs atque Arvernīs...ex reliquīs captīvīs: a notable strategy: by preserving some of the Aedui and Arverni (keeping them exempt from mass enslavement), Caes. took precautions to restore relative stability in Gaul and prevent the formation of a power vacuum

tōtō exercituī: *for the whole army*; the dat. of *tōtus* is regularly *tōtī*, but here Caes. uses a less-common variant

capita singula: *single heads*, i.e., individuals (captives)

praedae nōmine: *in the name of plunder*

[90] *Caesar repositions his legions; news of victory reaches Rome*

1 Hīs rēbus cōfēctīs in Aeduōs proficīscitur; cīvitātem recipit. 2 Eō lēgātī ab Arvernīs missī quae imperāret sē factūrōs pollicentur. Imperat magnum numerum obsidum. 3 Legiōnēs in hīberna mittit. Captīvōrum circiter vīgintī mīlia Aeduīs Arvernīsque reddit. 4 Titum Labiēnum duābus cum legiōnibus et equitātū in Sēquanōs proficīscī iubet: huic Mārcum Semprōnium Rutilum attribuit.

cōfīcīō, -ere, -fēcī, -fectus:

prepare, make ready; execute

eō: there, to that place (adv.)

hīberna, -ōrum n.: winter camp

obses, -idis m/f.: hostage

proficīscor, -ī, profectus: set forth,
depart

polliceor, -ērī, -itus: promise

reddō, -ere, -didī, -itus: return,
restore

vīgintī: twenty

in Aeduōs (fīnēs): *to the territory of the Aeduī*

cīvitātem recipit: *receives the surrender of the tribe; literally, “recover” or “regain” the tribe; a laconic sentence which clearly announces that Caes. is not interested in giving details, perhaps to spare the Aedui the shame of what was surely an awkward and humiliating process*

quae imperāret: *the things he (Caes.) was ordering; the antecedent of this rel. clause is an implied ea as a direct object of sē factūrōs (esse); verbs in rel. clauses dependent on indirect statements are regularly subjunctive*

Captīvōrum: *partitive gen. with vīgintī mīlia*

in Sēquanōs (fīnēs): *into the territory of the Sēquanī*

huic: *that is, to Labienus*

Rutilum: *he is otherwise unknown, but is very clearly here placed in a subordinate status to Labienus, the favorite and most capable of Caesar’s lēgātī*

5 Gāium Fabium lēgātum et Lūcium Minucium Basilum cum legiōnibus duābus in Rēmīs collocat, nē quam ab finitimīs Bellovacīs calamitātem accipiant. 6 Gāium Antistium Rēgīnum in Ambivarētōs, Titum Sextium in Biturigēs, Gāium Canīnium Rebilum in Rutēnōs cum singulīs legiōnibus mittit.

calamitās, -tātis f.: damage, harm;
mischief

finitimus, -a, -um: neighboring,
bordering upon

collocat: the distribution of Roman forces into winter quarters was not only a practical and clerical concern of Roman commentaries, but also in the case of *BG* serves to end the narrative of each year/campaign (except for Bk 5)

nē (ali)quam...calamitātem accipiant: *lest they receive some trouble*; a negative purpose clause

cum singulīs legiōnibus: *with one legion each*

Fabium: see Appendix A

Basilum...Rēgīnum...Sextium: all three had been *legatī* since 53 (*BG* 6.1; 29-30); for Reginus, see 7.83.2

Rebilum: see 7.83.2

7 Quīntum Tullium Cicerōnem et Pūblium Sulpicium Cabillōnī et Maticōne in Aeduīs ad Arārim reī frūmentāriae causā collocat. 8 Ipse Bibracte hiemāre cōstituit. Hīs litterīs cognitīs Rōmae diērum XX supplicātiō redditur.

hiemō (1): pass the winter

frūmentārius, -a, -um: relating to grain

reddō, -ere, -didī, -itus: (here)

reply; return, restore

supplicātiō, -iōnis f.:

thanksgiving prayer

Cicerōnem: the younger brother of the famous orator; he had been *legatus* under Caes. in Gaul from 54, and played a prominent role in the uprising of Ambiorix that winter (*BG* 5.38-52); he would return to Italy after Alesia and fight on Pompey's side in the Civil War

Cabillōnī et Maticōne: locatives for two *oppida* of the Aedui; Cabillonum was near modern Chalon-sur-Saône; Matisco is modern Mâcon

ad Arārim: on the Arar river (the Saône in modern eastern France)

reī frūmentāriae causā: for the sake of the grain supply

Bibracte, Rōmae: locative

hīs litterīs cognitīs: Krebs (2023, p.343 n.90.8) argues persuasively that we should read *hīs [rēbus ex] litterīs cognitīs*; Rome would have been updated about the situation in Gaul regularly by short messages, which we assume were later used to formulate the *commentārii dē bellō Gallicō*

diērum XX supplicātiō: a thanksgiving of 20 days; these were formal religious occasions held to avert disasters or give thanks for successes; the traditional length of one day was shattered by Pompey (at 12 days), then 15 for Caes. (*BG* 2.35.4) and now this one at 20 days

APPENDIX A

Proper Nouns in the Text

Aeduī (-ōrum): A powerful tribe situated in modern Burgundy, between the Saône and Loire rivers. They were reluctant allies of the Romans throughout the first six years of the war. Caesar sometimes used their chief *oppidum* (Bibracte, at Mont Beuvray) as a central depot and fortress. The Aedui turned against Caesar in 52 BCE.

Alesia (-ae): The chief *oppidum* of the Mandubiī. Though the exact location has been a source of controversy for centuries, it is now generally agreed to be at Mont-Auxois, near Alise-Sainte-Reine in Burgundy. Between 1861 and 1865, Napoleon III arranged for significant funding for excavation of the site via the Commission de la Topographie des Gaules. The excavators were thorough, finding a great quantity of Roman-era material and the traces of numerous siege lines in keeping with Caesar's account. The findings were not widely published, however, and it was not until the 1990s that a renewed effort by French and German archaeologists confirmed many of the 19th-century findings.

Arvernī (-ōrum): A powerful tribe situated in the modern Auvergne region. In the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE they had enjoyed a hegemony over Gaul from the Atlantic to the Rhine, but were defeated by the Romans in 121 BCE, after which their influence was reduced. By the time of the events of the Gallic War, there were two main *factiōnēs* in Gaul: the Aedui were the unofficial leaders of one, and the Arverni the other (BG 1.31). Their chief *oppidum* was Gergovia, near Clermont-Ferrand, and Vercingetorix was their most famous member.

Brutus, Decimus Iunius (Albinus): Always referred to as *adolescēns* by Caesar. He is not to be confused with Marcus Iunius, though Decimus would also be one of Caesar's assassins in 44 BCE. He is mentioned several times in *Gallic War*, and, though a junior officer, seems to have been one of Caesar's chosen favorites. As a *praefectus classis* he had defeated the Veneti in a sea battle in 56 (BG 3.11) and would again command a fleet in the siege of Massalia in 49 BCE during the Civil War.

Cabillōnum (-ī): An *oppida* of the Aedui, near Chalon-sur-Saône in modern-day Eastern France.

Cimbrī (-ōrum): A Germanic tribe that posed a serious threat to the Romans. They migrated south with the Teutones and defeated some tribes and a Roman army in 112 BCE at Noricum. In 109 BCE, they invaded the Roman province Transalpine Gaul and defeated two more Roman armies. In 107 BCE, they killed the consul Lucius Cassius Longinus and Lucius Piso, his legate. In 105 BCE, they defeated the proconsul Quintus Servilius Caepio and the consul Gnaeus Mallius Maximus at the Battle of Arausio, near modern day Orange in France. The Cimbri and Teutones could have invaded Italy, but they went to Spain and Gaul first. In 102 BCE, they returned to enter Italy separately. The Cimbri were defeated by Gaius Marius at Vercellae in 101 BCE.

Commius (-ī): A Gallic noble whom Caesar appointed king of the Atrebates. He was sent to Britain in 55 BCE because of Caesar's trust in his abilities and influence (BG 4.21). Because of his service to Caesar, the Atrebates did not need to pay tribute and had legal and administrative independence (BG 7.76.1). In 52 BCE, he joined the uprising against Caesar and was a leader of the army that sought to aid Vercingetorix during the Siege of Alesia (BG 7.76.4).

Critognatus (-ī): An Arvernian of high status who gave a speech during the Siege of Alesia expressing his disdain of any Gaul who would surrender to the Romans, even if they had to resort to extreme methods to survive (*BG* 7.77). He is not mentioned elsewhere.

Eporedorix (-igis): A young Aeduan nobleman and cavalry commander. He was loyal to Caesar, even reporting the scheme of Litaviccus in 52 BCE (*BG* 7.39). However, he joined the Gallic uprising later that year. He was one of the leaders of the relief force sent to aid Vercingetorix during the Siege of Alesia (*BG* 7.76.4).

Fabius, Gaius: Tribune of the plebs in 55 BCE, and one of Caesar's legates from 54 to 49. Not to be confused with Quintus Fabius Maximus, a legate of Caesar's during the Civil War in 46 BCE and suffect consul in 45 BCE along with Trebonius.

Labiēnus, Titus: Caesar's most trusted and most capable *lēgātus* during his campaigns in Gaul, and with him the entire campaign from 58 to 51 BCE. He was tribune of the plebs in 63 with close ties to Pompey, then praetor in 60 or 59. His family was of equestrian status, probably from Cingulum or another town in Picenum, where Pompey had many clients and connections. Judging by *Gallic War*, his tactical prowess was rivaled only by that of Caesar. At the onset of the Civil War in 49, he left Caesar's service and joined the Pompeians.

Lemovīces (-um): A Gallic tribe located in what is now Limousin, in south central Gaul. Their chief town was Durotincum, probably modern Villejoubert.

Mandūbī (-ōrum): A small Gallic tribe in central Gaul, in the Haux-Aixoise region. They were sandwiched between the Aedui to the

south and the Lingones to the north. It was their unfortunate fate to host the great battle and siege at their chief town, Alesia.

Sēquanī (-ōrum): A Gallic tribe allied with Vercingetorix and the Arverni.

Vercassivellaūnus (-ī): A Gallic commander of the Arverni who was also part of the relief force that sought to aid Vercingetorix in the Siege of Alesia. He was also called the cousin of Vercingetorix by Caesar (*BG* 7.76.4). His fate after Alesia is unknown; he may have been executed, or perhaps returned to his tribe with the other Arvernian captives (*BG* 7.89.5).

Vercingetorīx (-igis): A nobleman of the Arverni and the leader of the Gallic movement of 52 BCE. He is Caesar's chief adversary in the seventh book of *Gallic War*.

Viridomarus (-ī): A promising Aeduan youth, though not from a prominent family like his compatriot Eporedorix. The Aeduan druid had entrusted Viridomarus to Caesar for tutelage, and Caesar had supported his rise in influence (*BG* 7.39.1). He revolted against Caesar with Eporedorix in 52 BCE and was one of the leaders of the Gallic force sent to the aid of Vercingetorix in the Siege of Alesia (*BG* 7.76.4).

APPENDIX B

Gallic *Lībertās* and *Servitūs* in Caesar

Throughout *dē bellō Gallicō*, Caesar describes the Gauls as a people who, by their nature, yearn for freedom (*lībertās*) and recoil from the prospect of servitude (*servitūs*). Vercingetorix brands his particular struggle against the Romans as a pursuit of *commūnis lībertās* (BG 7.7.4), and Caesar regularly frames the subjection of people by a more powerful hegemon (Roman or otherwise) as *servitūs* (BG 1.17.3-4, e.g.). Caesar's mentions of freedom and servitude in *dē bellō Gallicō*, though relatively infrequent, present a complicated web of overlapping and competing claims *on* or *denial of* freedom of the Gauls. On the one hand, he seems to admire the Gauls for their Roman-like commitment to *lībertās*; on the other, he sees his own campaigns, which often entail enslavement and servitus of this freedom-loving people, as noble and honorable. Here are collected all the major passages in which Caesar references *lībertās* or *servitūs* in *dē bellō Gallicō*.

BG 1.11.3: The Aedui ask Caesar to defend them from invading Helvetii.

Aeduī cum sē suaque ab iīs [Helvetiīs] dēfendere nōn possent, legatōs ad Caesarem mittunt rogātum auxilium: ita sē omnī tempore dē populō Rōmānō meritōs esse, ut paene in conspectū exercitūs nostrī agrī vāstārī, liberī eōrum in servitūtem abdūcī, oppida expūgnārī nōn dēbuerint.

Because the Aedui were not able to defend themselves and their [possessions] from these [Helvetii], they send ambassadors to Caesar to ask for help: [they plead that] they always deserved well from the Roman people such that their fields ought not to be destroyed nearly in the sight of our army, their children ought not to be lead away into slavery, their towns ought not to be stormed.

BG 1.17.3–4: Some Aeduan instigators persuade the other Aedui to rise up against the Romans.

Hōs sēditiōsā atque improbā ōrātiōne multitudinem dēterrere, nē frūmentum cōnferant, quod debeant: praestāre, sī iam principātum Galliae obtinēre nōn possent, Gallōrum quam Rōmānōrum imperia perferre; nēque dubitāre quīn, sī Helvetiōs superāverint Rōmānī, ūnā cum reliquā Galliā Aeduīs libertātem sint ereptūrī.

They were deterring a great multitude of people with seditious and shameless speech from handing over their grain [to the Romans], which they ought to do: that if [the Aedui] were not able to maintain their sovereignty over Gaul, it was preferable to endure the commands of other Gauls rather than the commands of Romans; nor was there a doubt that if the Romans subdued the Helvetii, they were going to snatch liberty from the Aedui along with the rest of Gaul.

BG 1.28.5: The Aedui extend a benevolent dominion over the Boii, who have suffered the deprivations of war and have lost their territory.

Boiōs pētentibus Aeduīs, quod ēgregiā virtūte erant cognitī, ut in finibus suīs conlocārent, concessit; quibus illī agrōs dedērunt quōsque postea in parem iūris libertātisque condiōnem atque ipsī erant recēpērunt.

Since the Aedui were petitioning [Caesar] that they settle the Boii within their own borders, because they were known for their extraordinary courage, Caesar allowed them to do so; the Aedui gave them arable lands and later admitted them into the same status of rights and freedom as they themselves held.

BG 1.33.2: Caesar has been informed that Ariovistus, a king of Germanic peoples beyond the Rhine, has occupied Gallic territory and has become increasingly menacing to the Aedui, allies of Rome.

Et secundum ea multae rēs eum hortābantur quārē sibi eam rem cōgitandam et suscipiendam putāret, in p̄mīs quod Aeduōs, frātrēs cōsanguineōsque saepenumerō ā senātū appellātōs, in servitūte atque in diciōne vidēbat Germānōrum tenērī eōrumque obsidēs esse apud Ariovistum ac Sēquanōs intellegēbat, quod in tantō imperiō populī Rōmānī turpissimum sibi et reī publicae esse arbitrābātur.

And in addition to these [reasons stated by the Gauls], many circumstances urged him to consider how the matter must be understood and undertaken, especially because he was seeing that the Aedui, called brothers and kindred often by the senate, were held in the servitude and dominion of the Germans and he understood that they were hostages of Ariovistus and the Sequani, a state of affairs which, considering such a powerful empire of the Roman people, he judged to be very disgraceful both to himself and the Republic.

BG 2.14.1–3: Diviciacus, a druid of the Aedui, urges that Caesar not make war on the Bellovaci, since they are friends of the Aedui.

Prō hīs Dīviciācus—nam post discessum Belgārum dīmissīs Aeduōrum cōpiīs ad eum reverterat—facit verba: 2 Bellovacōs omnī tempore in fidē atque amīcitiā cīvitatīs Aeduae fuisse; 3 impulsōs ab suis p̄ncipibus, quī dicerent Aeduōs ā Caesare in servitūtem redāctōs, omnēs indignitātēs contumēliāsque perferre, et ab Aeduīs dēfēcisse et populō Rōmānō bellum intulisse.

In defense of these [Bellovaci], Diviciacus—for after the departure of the Belgae when the forces of the Aedui were sent away, he had returned to [Caesar]—said that the Bellovaci had always been in the trust and friendship of the Aeduan tribe; that they had withdrawn from the Aedui and had brought war against the Roman people only after being compelled by their own leading men, who said that the Aedui had been led back into slavery by Caesar [and] had suffered every insult and abuse.

BG 3.8.4: The Veneti begin a movement to resist the Romans.

reliquāsque cīvitatēs sollicitant ut in eā libertāte quam ā maiōribus acceperint permanēre quam Rōmānōrum servitūtem perferre malint.

They urge the other tribes that they prefer to remain in that liberty which they received from their ancestors than to endure servitude to the Romans.

BG 3.10.3: Caesar notes that all peoples naturally yearn for freedom.

Itaque cum intellegeret omnēs ferē Gallōs novīs rēbus studēre et ad bellum mōbiliter celeriterque excitārī, omnēs autem hominēs nātūrā libertātis studiō incitārī et condiōnem servitūtis odisse, priusquam plūrēs cīvitatēs cōspīrārent, partiendum sibi ac lātius distribuendum exercitum putāvit.

And so, since he understood that just about all the Gauls were zealous for rebellion and were easily and quickly roused to war, [and] moreover that all men are, by their nature, incited by their desire for liberty and hate the state of servitude, he thought that the army should be divided by him and stationed rather widely before more tribes could coordinate together.

BG 4.1.8-9: Caesar notes that the Germanic Suevi tribe are physically powerful in part due to their freedom.

8 Neque multum frūmentō, sed maximam partem lacte atque pecore vīvunt, multum sunt in vēnātiōnibus; 9 quae rēs, et cibī genere et cotīdiānā exercitātiōne et libertāte vītae (quod ā puerīs nullō officiō aut disciplīnā adsuēfactī nihil omnīnō contrā voluntātem faciunt), et vīrēs alit et immānī corporum magnitūdine hominēs efficit.

They do not depend very much on grain, but instead for the most part live on milk and livestock, [and] very much are engaged in hunting; due to their type of food, their daily training, and the liberty of their lives (because they do nothing at all that they do not want to do, being accustomed from boyhood to no duty or discipline), this way of life maintains their physical strength and produces men with bodies of monstrous size.

BG 5.27.6: Ambiorix argues that the Gallic attack on the camp of Sabinus and Cotta was not his fault, but was the natural outcome of the denial of freedom.

Nōn facile Gallōs Gallīs negāre potuisse, praesertim cum dē recuperandā commūnī libertāte cōnsilium initum vidērētur.

[Ambiorix says that] it was not easy for Gauls to say no to other Gauls, especially when a plan for the regaining of their common liberty seemed to have been put in motion.

BG 6.13.2: Caesar describes the lower class of Gallic society.

Plērīque, cum aut aere aliēno aut magnitūdine tribūtōrum aut iniūriā potentiōrum premuntur, sēsē in servitūtem dicant nōbilibus; in hōs eadem omnia sunt iūra quae dominīs in servōs.

And most, oppressed either by debt or the great weight of tribute payments or injustices of those stronger than them, give themselves up into slavery to nobles; there exist for these noblemen all the same rights which exist for masters over slaves.

BG 7.4.4: Vercingetorix incites the Gauls and establishes his rallying cry.

Hortātur ut commūnis libertātis causā arma capiant.

He urges that they take up arms for the sake of their common liberty.

BG 7.14.10: Vercingetorix proposes a scorched-earth strategy, suggesting the alternative is even worse.

Haec sī gravia aut acerba videantur, multō illa gravius aestimāre: liberōs coniugēs in servitūtem abstrahī, ipsōs interficī, quae sit necesse accidere victīs.

If these things should seem severe or harsh, they would reckon the following even more serious: that their children [and] spouses be dragged into servitude, the men themselves killed, which results necessarily befall the defeated.

BG 7.37.2-4: Convictolitavis convinces the Aedui to join the uprising.

2 Cum hīs praemium commūnicat hortāturque ut sē liberōs et imperiō nātōs meminerint. 3 Ūnam esse Aeduōrum cīvitātem quae certissimam Galliae victōriam dētineat; eius auctōritāte reliquās continērī; quā trāductā locum cōsistendī Rōmānīs in Galliā nōn fore. 4 Esse nōnnūllō sē Caesaris beneficiō adfectum, sīc tamen ut iūstissimam apud eum causam obtinuerit; sed plūs commūnī libertātī tribuere.

He [Convictolitavis] shares the bribe [of Verc.] with these men and urges them to remember that they were free men and born for dominion. He says that there is one tribe—the Aedui—which delays the most certain victory of Gaul; that the others are held back [from rising up] by Aeduan authority; once [the Aeduan tribe] is brought over [to the uprising], there would be no place for the Romans to make a stand. He says that he had been impacted by some of Caesar's good favor, but nevertheless only so far as he had obtained a legal ruling from him [Caes.] in a case which was most just anyway; but he gives himself more to shared Gallic liberty [than loyalty to Caes.]

BG 7.64.3: Vercingetorix plans to carry out a scorched-earth policy.

... aequō modo animō sua ipsī frūmenta corrumpant aedificiaque incendant, quā reī familiāris iactūrā perpetuum imperium lībertātemque sē cōsequī videant.

...provided that they laid waste to their own crops and burned down their own buildings with equanimity, in order that they see themselves achieve permanent authority and liberty.

BG 7.66.4: Vercingetorix argues that a Roman withdrawal is not enough, and that a decisive blow is required for lasting freedom.

Fugere in prōvinciam Rōmānōs Galliāque excēdere. 4 Id sibi ad praesentem obtinendam lībertātem satis esse; ad reliquī temporis pācem atque ōtium parum prōfici. maiōribus enim cōactīs cōpiīs reversūrōs neque finem bellandī factūrōs. Proinde agmine impeditōs adorīrentur.

[He says that] they are fleeing to the Province and are departing from Gaul. This is sufficient for the Gauls for obtaining immediate freedom; but it contributes too little towards peace and quiet in the future. For, after mustering greater forces, he says that [the Romans] will return and will make no end of waging war. Therefore the Gauls must attack them while they are weighed down with baggage on the march.

BG 7.71.2-3: Vercingetorix sends away his besieged cavalry and asks them to raise more forces.

2 Discēdentibus mandat ut suam quisque eōrum cīvitātem adeat omnēsque quī per aetātem arma ferre possint ad bellum cōgant. 3 Sua in illōs merita prōpōnit obtestāturque ut suae salūtis ratiōnem habeant neu sē optimē dē commūnī lībērtāte meritum in cruciātum hostibus dēdant.

After the departure [of the cavalry], Vercingetorix orders that each [cavalryman] go to his own city and that [the cavalrymen] muster for war everyone who can bear arms. He points out his services on their behalf and asks that they have regard for his own safety and not hand him, having deserved well of them regarding their common liberty, over to the enemy for torture.

BG 7.76.2: Gallic desire for *libertās* overrides their feelings of obligation to Caesar and the Romans.

Tamen tanta ūniversae Galliae cōnsēnsiō fuit lībērtātis vindicandae et prīstinae bellī laudis recuperandae, ut neque beneficiīs neque amīcītae memoriā movērentur omnēsque et animō et opibus in id bellum incumberent.

There was such an agreement of all the Gauls to demand liberty and reclaim their former glory in war that they were moved neither by former [Roman] favors nor by the memory of a friendly alliance, and all of them devoted themselves to the war with energy and ability.

BG 7.77.9: Critognatus urges the Gauls besieged inside Alesia to be patient and endure deprivation so that they might eventually provide aid to the coming relief force outside of Alesia.

Nōlite hōs vestrō auxiliō exspoliāre quī vestrae salūtis causā suum perīculum neglĕxērunt nec stultitiā ac temeritāte vestrā aut animī imbēcillitāte omnem Galliam prōsternere et perpetuae servitūtī subicere.

Do not plunder these men who ignored their own danger for your health, and do not cast down all of Gaul and subjugate it to everlasting servitude with your stupidity and thoughtlessness or the weakness of your courage.

BG 7.77.12-13: Critognatus argues that his extreme plan would be carried out for the sake of Gallic *libertās*.

Quid ergō meī cōsilī est? Facere quod nostrī maiōrēs nēquāquam parī bellō Cimbrōrum Teutonumque fēcērunt; quī in oppida compulsī ac similī inopiā subactī eōrum corporibus quī aetāte ad bellum inūtilēs vidēbantur vītam tolerāvērunt neque sē hostibus trādidērunt. ¹³ Cuius rei sī exemplum nōn habērēmus, tamen libertātis causā īstituī et posterīs prōdī pulcherrimum iūdicārem.

What, then, is my plan? To do what our ancestors did in the war with the Cimbri and Teutones, though the circumstances were different; for they, driven into their towns and reduced by similar deprivation, barely sustained their lives on the corpses of those who were deemed useless for war due to old age, and thus did not surrender themselves to the enemy. If we were not having an example of that situation, I would nevertheless judge that it be set in motion

for the sake of our freedom and hand down a most beautiful example for future generations.

BG 7.77.14: Critognatus recalls what the Cimbri did to Gaul in the past.

Dēpopulātā Galliā, Cimbrī, magnāque illātā calamitāte, finibus quidem nostrīs aliquandō excessērunt atque aliās terrās petiērunt; iūra, lēgēs, agrōs, libertātem nōbīs reliquērunt.

After Gaul was ravaged and a great calamity was inflicted on it, the Cimbri left our borders at long last and sought other lands; they left us our rights, laws, fields, and liberty.

BG 7.77.15–16: Critognatus uses Gallia Transalpina as an example of what would happen to the rest of Gaul if the Romans win.

15 Rōmānī vērō quid petunt aliud aut quid volunt, nisi invidiā adductī, quōs fāmā nōbilēs potentēque bellō cognōvērunt, hōrum in agrīs cīvitatibusque cōnsīdere atque hīs aeternam iniungere servitūtem? 16 Quod sī ea quae in longinquīs nātiōnibus geruntur ignōrātis, respicite finitimam Galliam quae in prōvinciam, redāctā iūre et lēgibus commūtātis, secūribus subiectā, perpetuā premitur servitūte.

Truly, what else do the Romans, induced by envy, seek or want other than to settle in the fields and towns and to impose eternal servitude upon these whom they have come to know are noble by reputation and powerful in war? But if you ignore the things which were carried out in far-off nations, look upon the

Roman Gallic province right next to us, which, with its rights denied, its laws changed, its authority diminished, is oppressed with perpetual servitude.

BG 7.89.1-2: Vercingetorix speaks at the final council of the Gauls.

Posterō diē Vercingetorīx conciliō convocātō id bellum sē suscēpisse nōn suārum necessitātium, sed commūnis libertātis causā dēmōnstrat...

The following day, Vercingetorix, a meeting having been called, indicates that he fought this war not for the sake of personal circumstances, but for the cause of their common liberty...

GLOSSARY

This list contains: (1) the 250 most commonly occurring words in Latin, drawn from the Dickinson College Commentaries Latin Core Vocabulary, which also appear in the text of this book; (2) other words which appear frequently in the text.

ā/ab: away from; by (+ abl)

absum, abesse, āfuī, āfutūrus: be away, be absent

ac: and; (after comparatives) than; *simul ac*, as

accēdo, accēdere, accessī, accessus: go to, come to, approach, enter

accidō, accidere, accidī: happen, fall to

accipiō, accipere, accēpī, acceptus: receive

ācer, ācris, ācre: sharp, severe; violent; shrewd

ad: to, up to, towards (+ acc)

aditus, aditūs m.: approach, entrance

administrō, administrāre, administrāvī, administrātus: attend upon; manage

adulēscēns, adulēscētis: young; (as substantive) young person

adventus, adventūs m.: arrival; approach

Aeduus, Aedua, Aeduum: of or from the Aedui

aequus, aequa, aequum: even, level, flat

ager, agrī m.: field, farm, arable land; territory

agger, aggeris m.: mass, heap; rampart

agmen, agminis n.: that which is driven; army, troop; train, procession

agō, agere, ēgī, āctus: drive, lead; do; act

alius, alia, aliud: some, other; another

alter, altera, alterum: other (of two)

altitūdō, altitūdinis f.: height, altitude

animus, animī m.: soul, spirit, mind; (in pl.) high spirits, courage

annus, annī m.: year

ante: before, in front of (adv. and prep. + acc)

appellō, appellāre, appellāvī, appellātus: speak to, call upon; name

appropinquō, appropinquāre, appropinquāvī, appropinquātus: come near

aqua, aquae f.: water

arma, armōrum n. pl.: arms, weapons
at: but, but indeed
atque: and; (after comparatives) than; *simul atque*, as
attribuō, attribuere, attribūi, attribūtus: assign; give in charge; confer
auctōritās, auctōritātis f.: authority
audeō, audēre, ausus: dare, venture
audiō, audīre, audīvī, audītus: hear, listen to
aut: or; *aut ... aut:* either ... or
auxilium, auxiliū n.: aid, support; troops; (in pl.) auxiliary troops
bellum, bellī n.: war
caedēs, caedis f.: killing, slaughter
campester, campestris, campestre: of a level field, even, flat
capiō, capere, cēpī, captus: take, seize
caput, capitis n.: head
castellum, castellī n.: castle, fort, citadel
castra, castrōrum n. pl.: soldiers' camp; fort
causa, causae f.: cause, reason; *causā* + preceding genitive, for the sake of
cēdō, cēdere, cessī, cessus: go, move (typically with a prefix in Caes.)
celeriter: quickly
certus, certa, certum: definite, sure, reliable
circiter: about, near
cīvis, cīvis m./f.: citizen
cīvitās, cīvitātis f.: (in Caes.) tribe; state
clāmor, clāmōris m.: loud shout; noise, uproar
cōgnōscō, cōgnōscere, cōgnōvī, cōgnītus: learn, recognize; (in perf.) know
cōgō, cogere, coēgī, coāctus: drive together, collect; compel, urge
cohors, cohortis f.: (in Caes.) a subdivision of the legion; c.480 soldiers
collis, collis m.: hill
collocō, collocāre, collocāvī, collocātus: set right, arrange, station
commūnis, commūne: common, general
complūrēs, complūrium: many
concilium, conciliū n.: council, group of advisors
cōnfirmō, cōnfirmāre, cōnfirmāvī, cōnfirmātus: strengthen; assert

coniciō, conicere, conieci, coniectus: throw together, unite; collect
cōnor, cōnārī, cōnātus: try, attempt
cōnsīdō, cōnsīdere, cōnsēdī, cōnsessus: sit down; take position
cōnsilium, cōnsilī n.: plan
cōnstituō, cōnstituere, cōnstituī, cōnstitūtus: place; arrange; decide; halt
contendō, contendere, contendī, contentus: stretch, bend, strain; hasten
contrā: against, opposite (adv. and prep. + acc)
conveniō, convenīre, convēnī, conventus: assemble, gather
cōpia, cōpiārum f. pl.: military forces, soldiers
corpus, corporis n.: body
crātis, crātis f.: rough wooden platform
cūra, cūrae f.: care, concern
dē: about, concerning; down from (+ abl)
dēbeō, dēbere, dēbuī, dēbitus: ought; owe
decem: ten
dēdūcō, dēdūcere, dēdūxī, dēductus: lead away, draw out, divert, remove
dēleō, dēlere, dēlēvī, dēlētus: destroy, obliterate
dēmōnstrō, dēmōnstrāre, dēmōnstrāvī, dēmōnstrātus: indicate, show
dēspērō, dēspērāre, dēspērāvī, dēspērātus: be hopeless, give up
dīcō, dīcere, dīxī, dictus: say, name, designate
diēs, -ī m./ f.: day
dispōnō, dispōnere, dispōsuī, dispōsitus: arrange, set in order, distribute
distribuō, distribuere, distribuī, distribūtus: divide, apportion
dō, dare, dedī, datus: give
dolor, doloris m.: pain, grief
dum: while (+ indic.); until (+ subj.); provided that (+ subj.)
duo, duae, duo: two
dux, ducis m./f.: leader, general
ē/ex: out of, from (+ abl)
ēdūcō, ēdūcere, ēdūxī, ēductus: lead forth; draw out
ēgredior, ēgredī, ēgressus: go out, march out
eō, ire, iī/ivī, itus: go
eques, equitis m.: horseman

equitātus, equitātūs m.: cavalry
equus, equī m.: horse
ēruptiō, ēruptōnis f.: a breaking out, bursting forth; armed sally from within
excēdō, excēdere, excessī, excessus: go out, go forth, depart; withdraw
exercitus, exercitūs m.: army
expectō, expectāre, expectāvī, expectātus: wait for, anticipate
exter, externa, exterum: on the outside, outward, foreign
facilis, facile: easy, simple
faciō, facere, fēcī, factus: do, make, accomplish
ferō, ferre, tulī, lātus: carry, bear; endure; report
fidēs, fideī f.: trust, faith; assurance
fīnis, fīnis m.: boundary, end, limit, goal; (in pl.) country, territory
fīnitimus, fīnitima, fīnitimum: bordering upon; (as subst.) neighbor
fiō, fierī, factus: become, happen, be done
fortūna, fortūnae f.: fate, fortune
fossa, fossae f.: ditch, trench
frūmentum, frūmentī n.: grain; crops
fuga, fugae f.: flight, escape
fugiō, fugere, fūgī, fugitus: flee, escape
gerō, gerere, gessī, gestus: carry; manage, conduct, perform; wage
grandis, grande: large, great
habeō, habēre, habuī, habitus: have, hold; consider
hic, haec, hoc: this, these
hostis, hostis m./f.: enemy
hūc: to this place, hither
īdem, eadem, idem: same
ille, illa, illud: that
impedīmentum, impedīmentī n.: (in pl. in Caes.) army baggage
imperium, imperiū n.: command
imperō, imperāre, imperāvī, imperātus: command, order
īstituō, īstituere, īstituī, īstitutus: arrange, draw up; establish, prepare
intelligō, intellegere, intelligēxī, intelligētus: know, discern; understand
inter: between, among; during (+ acc)

interficiō, interficere, interfēcī, interfectus: kill, destroy
intermittō, intermittere, intermīsī, intermīssus: omit, suspend; leave off; elapse
iter, itineris n.: journey, route; a march (military)
iubeō, iubēre, iussī, iussus: order, command
labor, labōris m.: work, toil; distress, suffering
labōrō, labōrāre, labōrāvī, labōrātus: work, toil; suffer
latus, lateris n.: side, flank
lēgātus, lēgātī m.: lieutenant; ambassador
legiō, legiōnis f.: a Roman army, c.4,800 infantry soldiers
levis, leve: light, trivial
lēx, lēgis f.: law
libertās, libertātis f.: liberty, freedom
locus, locī m. (loca, locōrum n. pl.): place, region; *loca* (n. pl.) region
longus, longa, longum: long, far
magis, magis: more
magnitūdō, magnitūdinis f.: size, greatness, magnitude
mēns, mentis f.: mind; disposition
mīles, mīlitis m.: soldier
mīlle, pl. mīlia: thousand
mittō, mittere, mīsī, missus: send; release, let go
mors, mortis f.: death
moveō, -ēre, -ī, mōtus: move, stir, set in motion; disturb
multitūdō, multitudinis f.: great number, crowd
mūnitiō, mūnitiōnis f.: defense; fortification
nisi: if not; except; unless
nōmen, nōminis n.: name
noster, nostra, nostrum: our
novus, nova, novum: new
nox, noctis f.: night
numerus, numerī m.: number, amount
omnis, omne: all; every
oppidum, oppidī n.: town
opus, operis n.: work, labor

pār, paris: equal, well-matched
parō, parāre, parāvī, parātus: prepare; furnish, supply
pars, partis f.: part, share, portion
parvus, parva, parvum: small; (comp.) *minor, minus*, (superl.) *minimus, -a, -um*
passus, passūs m.: step, pace; *milia passuum:* a Roman mile
pateō, patēre, patuī: stand open, lie open
paucus, pauca, paucum: few; little
pāx pācis f.: peace
pecūnia, pecūniae f.: money; wealth
pedes, peditis m.: footsoldier, infantry
per: through (+ acc)
perīculum, perīculī n.: danger
perpetuus, perpetua, perpetuum: continuous, whole, entire
pēs, pedis m.: foot
petō, petere, petīvī, petītus: seek; aim at
pōnō, pōnere, posuī, positus: put, place, set; station
possum, posse, potuī: be able
post: backwards, behind (adv. and prep. + acc)
posterus, postera, posterum: next
praesidium, praesidiī n.: protection, guard; fortification
premō, premere, pressī, pressus: push, press
prīnceps, prīncipis: first, foremost; (as subst.) leader
prō: in front of; for, on behalf of (+ abl)
probō, probāre, probāvī, probātus: approve, commend, esteem
proelium, proelī n.: battle, combat
prope: near to; nearly
propter: on account of (+ acc)
pugnō, pugnāre, pugnāvī, pugnātus: fight
ratio, ratiōnis f.: reason, consideration; calculation; method
recipiō, recipere, recēpī, receptus: take back, receive, take
relinquō, relinquere, relīquī, relictus: leave behind, abandon; give up
reliquus, reliqua, reliquum: left over, remaining
rēs, reī f.: thing, object, matter

salūs, salūtis f.: health, safety, vigor
sed: but
sententia, sententiae f.: feeling, opinion; judgement
sequor, sequī, sēcūtus: follow, pursue
servitūs, servitūtis f.: slavery, servitude
sī: if
spatium, spatī n.: space, extent; distance, interval
sum, esse, fuī, futūrus: be; exist
summus, summa, summum: highest, greatest
superus, supera, superum: upper, above
sustineō, sustinēre, sustinuī, sustentus: hold up, support, sustain
tamen: yet, nevertheless, still
tantus, tanta, tantum: such, of such size; so great
tēlum, tēlī n.: missile, javelin, spear
tempus, temporis n.: time, period, season
teneō, tenēre, tenuī, tentus: hold, keep, have
tergum, tergī n: back
terra, terrae f.: earth, ground
tōtus, tōta, tōtum: all, entire, total
trādō, trādere, trādidī, trāditus: give up, hand over, deliver
trēs, tria: three
ūnus, ūna, ūnum: one
uterque, utraque, utrumque: each, either
ūtor, ūtī, ūsus: use, make use of; enjoy (+ abl)
vallum, vallī n.: rampart, palisades
veniō, venīre, vēnī, ventus: come
videō, vidēre, vīdī, vīsus: see, perceive
virtūs, virtūtis f.: manliness, strength, courage
vīs, vīs (pl. vīrēs, vīrium) f.: force, violence; strength